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75¢

DOD eyes control of Tinian airspace

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Defense is eyeing the airspace over Tinian and the Tinian International Airport itself for its military operations on the island but the CNMI government and the Commonwealth Ports Authority both oppose such use and question the military's authority in building on Tinian's only civilian airport.

See DOD on Page 4

CHC dialysis center passes CMS survey

» CHCC now awaiting one more decision for overall result of the hospital

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s dialysis center has been found in compliance with regulations by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, which won't be taking action at this time to terminate the hospital's participation in the Medicare program.

"After careful review of the Sept. 15, 2014, survey results, CMS has determined that your End-Stage Renal Disease dialysis center is now in compliance. ... This office, therefore, will not

See CHC on Page 4



3D PROCLAMATION

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider exchange proclamation documents to sign during yesterday's proclamation signing designating November as Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Month at the Governor's Office conference room. The Department of Public Safety said there's been a steady decline in traffic fatalities the past couple of years because of their efforts to curb impaired driving.

MARK RABAGO

See story on Page 5

CPA suspends Saipan airport parking lot fee

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Forget forking out that dollar to park at the Saipan International Airport's parking lot this December.

Expiring on Nov. 30 is POI Aviation's parking management contract with the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Yesterday, the CPA board of directors chose to cancel the current bid in place for the parking booth.

CPA executive director Maryann Lizama asked the board to cancel the bid, saying that based on the current proposal, the booth would operate at a "profit loss" for CPA.

She said that canceling the bid would

"basically open up the public parking," with the exception of bus and taxi permits until further analysis was done.

In an interview, Lizama confirmed that CPA would not be charging for public parking until further notice. She said CPA needs to do further financial analysis.

The no-charge parking will be effective Dec. 1, according to her.

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NATION

Thousands of people rally to protest the decision in the Ferguson shooting.

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ASIA

China defended its land reclamation in the disputed Spratly Islands.

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LIFE & STYLE

The Queen of Soul blasts the author of an unauthorized biography about her.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Dela Cruz's election contest to be heard Monday

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja will hear on Monday, Dec. 1, the election contest filed by Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz that seeks to force a recount of the ballots for Tinian mayor.

In an order on Monday, Naraja said the hearing will be at the Tinian Superior Court at 9am.

Naraja said that prior to the hearing, the Commonwealth Election Commission shall make arrangements for the re-

» Judge orders CEC to make arrangements for recount of votes

count to be performed before the court.

The judge said the hearing will consist of three parts: (1) a recount to be performed by CEC; (2) an evidentiary hearing regarding all issues presented in the contest; and (3) a hearing on the motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

Naraja said the CNMI's elec-

tion contest statutes were changed significantly in 2010 with the enactment of Public Law 17-11.

Subsequently, Naraja said, there have been no cases interpreting the recently amended statute and thus Dela Cruz's lawsuit is a case of first impression.

With this backdrop in mind, the judge said he finds Dela Cruz's complaint sets forth enough facts to satisfy the actual prejudice requirement entitling him to a hearing.

Naraja said in light of the expeditious timing requirements prescribed under the statute,

Dela Cruz's opposition to the motion to dismiss shall be due no later than today, Wednesday.

He said any reply to the opposition is due no later than Friday.

Dela Cruz filed the lawsuit on Nov. 12. Tinian mayor-elect Joey Patrick San Nicolas filed his answer on Nov. 17. CEC filed its answer and accompanying motion to dismiss also on Nov. 17. San Nicolas then filed a partial joinder to CEC's motion to dismiss.

CEC has already officially declared San Nicolas of the NMI Republican Party as the winner of the Nov. 4 mayoral election

by seven votes over Dela Cruz (Independent), 703 to 696 votes.

In his lawsuit, Dela Cruz, through counsel Mark B. Hanson, alleged several irregularities during the election, including a discrepancy between the votes cast for Tinian mayor tabulated on Tinian and the tabulation on Saipan of the votes physically cast on Tinian for Tinian mayor.

In his answer to the lawsuit, San Nicolas, through counsel Matthew T. Gregory, denied any irregularities.

Man arrested for alleged possession of child porn

Federal agents arrested a man on Monday for allegedly having in his possession a laptop that contained child pornographic materials.

Vincent M. Songsong was indicted on one count of child pornography. The indictment was filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI last Thursday but was unsealed only on Monday afternoon.

According to the indictment, from Feb. 17, 2014, until Feb. 25, 2014, Songsong knowingly possessed a laptop computer containing a visual depiction of a child less than 12 years old engaging in sex.

At the initial appearance hearing on Monday afternoon, Songsong appeared with court-appointed counsel Colin Thompson.

Thompson asked the court to set the arraignment on the same day as the detention hearing.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy set the detention hearing for Friday at 10am.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton moved to unseal the case. The judge granted the motion.

Kennedy remanded Songsong into the custody of the U.S. Marshal. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Governor OKs admin leave for Executive Branch this Friday

Gov. Eloy S. Inos issued a memorandum yesterday granting administrative leave for the Executive Branch this Friday, Nov. 28, the day after Thanksgiving Day.

All government offices, except for those with critical function such as hospital and law enforcement agencies, will be closed.

Inos also encouraged the Judiciary, the Legislature and autonomous agencies to grant administrative leave to their respective employees as well.

"This year, we've seen a lot of progress in the Commonwealth, both in government and in the private sector," said Inos. "In recognition for the hard work of employees throughout our government, this additional day off will be a great opportunity for everyone to spend quality time with their families." **(Office of the Governor)**

can't wait.....

Thanksgiving is more than the festivities, it gives us time to ponder upon what lessons we have learnt and how we can spread happiness around, to look back at all the great memories and good people who came in our lives.

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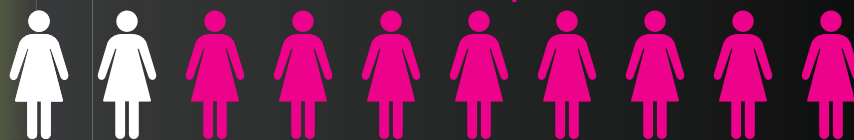
From Congressman Elect
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Tenorio Guerrero
and Family



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Notorious habitual offender is arrested again

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ramon Cabrera Blas, a 56-year-old notorious habitual offender, was arrested again on Monday for allegedly burglarizing an apartment complex in San Vicente and stealing a couple's jewelry, money, and other items worth \$22,875.

Blas was arrested for burglary, theft, and disturbing the peace. At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set his bail at \$10,000 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 2 at 1:30pm.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her re-

port that Blas first burglarized the couple's apartment unit on Aug. 21, and then again on Nov. 9. The apartment unit is reportedly owned by retired Judge Juan T. Lizama.

Pangelinan disclosed that Blas was also tagged as the suspect in a theft case that occurred at Mariana Resort and Spa in Marpi on Nov. 6.

Pangelinan said the couple positively identified Blas in a photo line-up. She said the female victim started crying and shaking and became angry upon seeing Blas' photo.

Pangelinan said that, according to the female victim, she was inside her apartment on Aug. 21 at 1:13pm when she

noticed a man outside on the balcony walking toward their sliding door. The victim said she asked the suspect what he was doing in their balcony and told him to leave several times.

The couple said there is no way to enter the couple's balcony in the back because the gate is closed. The balcony is about 10 to 15 feet high, adjacent to a retaining wall.

The man, who was later identified as Blas, stated he wants to drink water so the victim gave him water. Blas then climbed

the retaining wall from the balcony out to the road. Apparently, he managed to climb the wall

by stepping over a concrete flower vase.

The male victim said on that same day, when he came home for lunch, he saw Blas running across the street from their apartment toward the jungle.

The victim said he approached Blas and asked him what he was doing in their apartment. The suspect replied he was picking noni in the jungle.

Last Nov. 9, when the cou-

ple arrived at the apartment, the female victim saw Blas walking up the stairs that led to their entrance.

Pangelinan said that during her interviews at Mariana Resort last Nov. 15 about a theft case, one of the employees revealed that the person who committed the offense was Blas.

Pangelinan said the description given to her by the employee matched the description given to her by the couple.

That same day, Pangelinan said she visited Blas' house in San Vicente, but the suspect refused to come out. On Nov. 17, Pangelinan met with Blas at the Probation Office's conference room for an interview but the suspect refused to give a statement and asked for a lawyer. Blas, however, agreed to have

his photo taken.

Police later executed a search warrant at Blas' residence. It was not clear yet whether the couple's jewelry and other items have been recovered.

In February 2012, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman rejected a plea agreement that proposed a 90-day prison term for Blas over a robbery case at the Kingfisher golf course in Talofofo in October 2011.

In rejecting the plea deal, Wiseman noted that Blas has had a multitude of charges filed against him over a 30-year period, resulting in no less than 13 criminal convictions.

"His release from jail only results in committing more crimes and continually placing members of our society in danger," Wiseman said.

» **Suspect allegedly burglarized apartment, stole \$22,875 worth of jewelry, other items**

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DOD

From Page 1

Defense has proposed an amendment to existing FAA regulations to allow for the establishment of "restricted" airspace near the Tinian and Saipan airports. To pair with this, DOD also has laid down plans for additional military activities on CPA property at the Tinian airport.

FAA currently restricts military activity from 1,500 feet above and below ground level within three nautical miles of airports of civilian use.

The CNMI Joint Military Training's proposed live-fire ranges on Tinian requires the creation of a "restricted airspace" for weapons training activities. However, CPA opposes the change to FAA rules, calling it "premature" and would like a full public hearing with notice to comment on the matter.

On Nov. 5, CPA and CNMI representatives met in Seattle with the FAA-DOD Working Group in charge of coordinating military plans on the islands and to state its position on the FAA order as well as open up dialogue on the use of the Tinian airport.

If amended, the FAA order would apply nationally but CPA believes that the CNMI is the case by which the DOD's request was made. CPA asserts that this amounts to a "taking" of CNMI airspace—submerged lands, airspace, airports, and economic loss. The authority wants "clear and convincing" evidence that this change is in the best interest of the Tinian airport.

According to a summary of the meeting, the DOD presented the scope of its planned exclusive and restricted airspace in the Tinian airport. CPA believes this contemplated "special use airspace" will

adversely affect the CNMI's access to the airspace around Saipan and Tinian."

CPA also raised concerns about noise and economic impact and sought an explanation why live-fire training was needed on Tinian, the siting of Tinian, and the impact on planned direct flights to the island during the meeting.

The meeting was described as an "informal dialogue" by DOD reps, according to CPA. When the DOD submits its request for its special use airspace, this informal dialogue will end.

More meetings are expected on island next year.

'Our right, our airport'

Marianas Forces Pacific intends to set a parallel runway, an air traffic control tower, power and waste management facilities, fuel storage facilities, and other infrastructure at the Tinian airport.

However since the airport is

CPA property, CPA would have to propose these changes in an airport layout plan, or ALP, that will be submitted to FAA.

"CPA has made it clear that they have no intention of submitting an ALP until it is absolutely satisfied with whatever concerns—and there are many—about the military's plan," CPA legal counsel Robert Torres told the CPA board of directors yesterday.

It is unclear what exact rights Defense claims in its planned use of the airport. The DOD's leasehold interest in the CPA property has been purchased back by the CNMI many years ago.

According to CPA, Defense has rights for training and other purposes but not "expressly reserved and designated" as is the Northfield area on Tinian.

"We have to ask them this question: Why are you looking at the airport and not the Northfield?" Torres told the

board. He added that the military also has to be clear as to what authority they have to site the Tinian airport.

Can the military build an airport on Northfield? Torres said this is a "yes and no." An airport in Northfield would interfere with the airspace of Saipan and the runway they would build on is a historic area.

He added that CPA would like to know if it could benefit from a wastewater system to be implemented since there is currently only a septic system in place at the airport. CPA would also like to know if they could benefit from the military's fuel storage facilities and instrument landing systems.

According to CPA, an FAA representative at the Seattle meeting suggested that both parties consider having the airport leased to and operated by the military to allow civilian operations with benefits to the CNMI.

The DOD has proposed two phases for the ALP. The first is an "expeditionary ALP" for a temporary facility from 2016 to 2021. The second is an "end-state ALP" from 2012 and beyond.

Shutout

According to CPA, the proposed FAA rule change would be at FAA's discretion. The decision could be made without any input from the CNMI as it is an "internal document" and not a regulation subject to formal policy processes like the National Environmental Policy Act.

This would mean no public hearing and no notice for comment for a possible taking over of CNMI airspace by the Department of Defense.

In a Nov. 19 letter to Michael P. Huerta, administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Gov. Eloy S. Inos expressed concern over this procedural exclusion.

"In all candor, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands has great apprehension about the proposed military activities in the airspace around our international airports and little technical ability to evaluate or respond to the military's proposal," Inos wrote.

He said it his understanding that amending the process governing the creation of special use airspace would fall under FAA's general rulemaking procedures, which would require formal notice and opportunity to be heard.

He asked if it was correct that the FAA would not conduct public hearings nor prepare NEPA documents in regards to the proposed rule change.

"Given the CNMI's lack of resources to address these complicated aviation issues, we believe the safeguards contained in the administrative law and NEPA processes...are essential with respect to proposed DOD initiative on our islands," he said.

Inos said the modification of the FAA order would give DOD a legal basis to justify live-fire training in the CNMI. This, he wrote, should be thoroughly deliberated given its implications.

"For the record, should this proposal move forward, the CNMI respectfully requests public hearings on Saipan and Tinian on the proposed amendment," he said. He also asked that FAA independently prepare the appropriate NEPA documents in relation to the proposed amendment.

deficiency: the lack of a renal dietitian that is registered with the Commission on Dietetic Registration.

"Interview with the medical director during the survey on Sept. 15, 2014, revealed that the facility did not currently have a registered dietitian on staff. While the medical director stated that the facility had been actively hiring a qualified dietitian and had recently received notification of interest from a prospective applicant who might be available in November 2014, an offer for the position, however, had not been made," CMS stated in its deficiency statement.

Muna noted that they have already forwarded their plan of correction—that they have a registered dietitian who is ready to be employed by Jan. 19, 2014.

"We're good and that one deficiency had already been addressed and the registered dietitian will be coming in next year and we have cleared out all the things that they found for the dialysis center," Muna said.

"We got that already for the dialysis side. Now we are waiting on CMS' decision for the hospital overall," she added.

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Pacifica Insurance Underwriters' staff member Samantha Sikayun, right, presents a certificate for free insurance to the company's twenty-third 40 for 40 Giveaway winner Nadine Aquino and Edwin Aguon. Forty for 40 is a giveaway promotion designed to thank the CNMI and Pacifica's loyal patrons for 40 years of business—40 winners for a year of free insurance in celebration of 40 years. Only Pacifica policyholders are eligible for this giveaway. Last drawing is slated for Dec. 15. For information about Pacifica's 40 for 40 giveaway log on to www.pacificains.com/fortyforty or call 234-6267/7722/7310. Rest assured, CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHC

From Page 1

be taking any action at this time to terminate the Commonwealth Health Center's participation in the Medicare program," said Steven Chickering, CMS associate regional administrator, in a letter to CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña.

According to Muña, the survey CMS did in September comprised two different surveys that have different Medicare numbers. This meant the dialysis center had a separate survey while the overall corporation and the hospital had another.

Muna expressed relief over the CMS decision, saying this is good for the dialysis center. She said they are still waiting for the results of the survey CMS did on the overall hospital itself.

CHCC faces three options: an extension of time to address specific concerns; recertification of the hospital's condition of participation in Medicare; or outright termination of the hospital's condition of participation in Medicare.

Although the dialysis center received a positive outcome, CMS did cite a standard-level

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General Agents for

CNMI seeing a steady decline in traffic fatalities

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth has been seeing a steady decline in the number of traffic fatalities compared to previous years, according to the Department of Public Safety. In fact, the CNMI has been keeping its fatality rate significantly low compared to other states in the U.S., it said.

DPS shared its statistics on crashes and driving while under the influence during yesterday's signing of a proclamation that designates December as CNMI Drunk and Drugged Driving (3Ds) Prevention Month.

For this year, DPS reported two traffic fatalities, none of which was alcohol-related.

In 2013, there were two traffic fatalities, one of which was alcohol-related. In 2012, there were four traffic fatalities and three were alcohol-related. In 2011, one alcohol-related traffic fatality was recorded. In 2010, four traffic fatalities were recorded and three were alcohol-related.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider urged the Commonwealth community to join the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign from Nov. 25, 2014 to Jan. 1, 2015.

"We urge everyone to remember the hazards of impaired driving and to become involved in fighting this dangerous problem," Hofschneider said.

Inos urged the community to take advantage of the sober program.

"Our goal here is nothing more than to prevent alcohol-related crashes," Inos said.

The governor challenged all officers and the community to maintain this year's record of zero alcohol-related traffic fatality to set the trend.

Police officer Adrian Mendiola said they have scheduled a series of public outreach events to include radio talk shows and school presentations to spread the message against drunk and drugged driving.

Mendiola said they will also have multiple checkpoints throughout the weekends in different locations to deter drunk and drugged drivers.

"We are upholding a zero tolerance enforcement tactic to violators that are caught under the influence," he said.

In addition, Mendiola said they are running the traditional Designated Driver Program as part of their community outreach. He said this program is one of the highlights of the 3D campaign.

» Inos, Hofschneider declare December as 3Ds Prevention Month

The DD Program is a volunteer-based program that is supplemented by donations from various private agencies.

"This shows our partnership with our community in this fight against drunk and drugged driving. The program provides a free safe ride home for people that are under the influence," he said.

DPS, joined by other agencies, will also conduct caroling in the community to spread the holiday spirit with Santa visits accompanied by a choir.

For the community to stay safe this holiday season, DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero said people should be mindful that there is increased law enforcement presence throughout the Commonwealth public highways and to take advantage of the DPS Designated Driver Program.

"There is really nothing to be ashamed of in terms of request-



Deleon Guerrero

ing that they be taken home. It is better to be safe than sorry in the end," Deleon Guerrero said.

The commissioner said the CNMI has done great this year in terms of making sure that there are no alcohol-related fatalities.

"And we want to keep it at zero," he said.

In 2013, there were a total of 1,899 traffic crashes in the Commonwealth, 28 of which involved alcohol.

In 2012, there were 1,672 traffic crashes, 32 of which involved alcohol. In 2011, there were 1,929 traffic crashes, 543 of which were alcohol-related.

In 2010, there were 2,588 traffic crashes, 63 of which were alcohol-related.

Last year, in the entire United States (all 50 states), the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico,

10,322 people were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes. These alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities accounted for 31 percent of the total motor vehicle traffic fatalities in the U.S.

Traffic fatalities in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes reportedly increased by 4.6 percent from 9,865 in 2011 to 10,322 in 2012.

An average of 1 alcohol-impaired driving fatality occurred every 51 minutes in the U.S. in 2012.

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Pai officially begins second term as NMI public auditor



MARK A. RABAGO

Michael Pai has his picture taken with members of the House of Representatives after they confirmed his re-appointment as public auditor yesterday.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The House of Representatives went ahead and confirmed Michael Pai's re-appointment as public auditor yesterday in a unanimous vote of 17-0, with three absences. This new appointment is for another six-year term.

House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said the governor's appointments normally go through the lower chamber's Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee. However, in Pai's case, House members just went ahead with the confirmation because of the nominee's excellent track record and Pai being a reappointee.

All House members present voted to confirm the soft-spoken Pai, with the three absences being Vice Speaker Francisco Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) and Reps. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) and Anthony Benavente (Ind-Saipan).

Pai, who was also unanimously confirmed by the Senate last week, said he is humbled by the House's trust and confidence in him.

"Serving as the CNMI public auditor is the biggest honor and highlight of my career and I want to thank the governor, the Legislature, and the community of the CNMI for their confidence and support."

House members each spoke briefly in their support of Pai's reappointment. Deleon Guerrero said Pai "is well respected in his field, has diligently performed his duties, and has the respect of his subordinates."

JGO Committee chair Christopher Leon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said he has no problem that Pai's reappointment skipped his committee because all members already know "pertinent information" about the appointee and that he, too, supports the nomination.

Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) said she knows Pai as a man of

integrity, does his job excellently, and that she supports his reappointment.

Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) successfully lobbied for the House to include the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation's report on Pai's re-appointment for record purposes.

The vote for Pai's re-appointment as public was originally 16-0 with five absences, but Leon Guerrero, who left the session briefly, asked his colleagues to allow him to vote and all acceded to the request.

When asked what programs and initiatives he will be implementing in his second term, Pai said his office will essentially be business as usual in the short term.

"We have some ongoing court cases that we have to take care of. Procurement appeals will also be coming in. ... We're in the process of making our plans for the next six years in the audit department but nothing more specific yet. It's just been business as usual as we're continuing with our projects so far," he said.

Some of the high-profile cases Pai alluded to were the ones filed by OPA against former governor Benigno R. Fitial and former Office on Aging director Rose DLG. Mondala.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman last Nov. 6 dismissed the criminal charges against Fitial, ruling that OPA has no authority to file the charges against Fitial, now a private citizen.

Last Sept. 10, the Superior Court also dismissed the case against Mondala, ruling that the appointment of Hasselback as a special assistant attorney general in the case violates the separation of powers doctrine.

OPA has already filed a motion for reconsideration of Wiseman's decision on the Fitial case, while Pai believes his office will also ask for a reconsideration in the Mondala case.

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'BSI offer of up to 49 pct. of shares is within terms of contract'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Gov. Eloy S. Inos confirmed yesterday that the CNMI did sign off on Imperial Pacific International Holdings' filing last week with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, which allows the parent company of Best Sunshine International Ltd. to offer as much as 49 percent of the company's issued share capital to other investors.

The governor said as long as the developer of the \$7.1-billion integrated resort project on Saipan maintains 51 percent of its equity, which is faithful to the terms of the exclusive casino license agreement, his administration will continue to support Best Sunshine.

"The 49 percent can be comprised of other investors. The 49 percent could comprise 5 percent here, 5 percent there. It's a listed company. In fact, you can have thousands of other compa-

nies or individuals comprising the other 49 percent. It's the way the [stock] exchange works. As long as they have 51 percent of the shares, we're good. We're concerned about the majority shareholder and that's the one that's important to us," said Inos after signing a proclamation signing yesterday morning at the Governor's Office conference room.

Best Sunshine has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune's* question regarding its filing with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange last Wednesday.

GRRAsia, an online newsletter about the casino industry in Asia, reported over the weekend that Imperial Pacific filed with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange last Nov. 19 that it has been allowed to bring in outside investors and offer up to 49 percent of the issued share capital of the company.

Inos also said that Best Sunshine has acquired or is in

the process of acquiring DFS Saipan's property near the Saipan Housing area in Garapan.

"I understand that they've acquired the property. Public land near the DFS property is another area they're looking at. There's a good piece of public land there as well. They've expressed interest in that property as well."

The governor said Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio is working closely with Best Sunshine in looking for available public land to build their mega resort project. One such property is the property south of Mariana Resort & Spa that was once leased by Sunshine 100 and subsequently made available to South

Korean company E-Land.

"I think they were offered but DPL has withdrawn its offer to the property to E-Land for various reasons. I think they were also surprised when they were offered the property. We're still puzzled by E-Land's lack of progress on the Palms [Resort Saipan]," he said.

Inos also took the time to laud Best Sunshine for its beautification campaign that enlists paid volunteers to clean up the island's tourist spots.

"I just wish other institutions and entities would do that kind of thing here. I also understand that that's also part of their community outreach program, which is good. It's kind of a

one-time deal but what I would like to see is a program that makes it institutionalized this thing and maybe they can work with [Marianas Visitors Authority], can work with Parks and Recreation, and so forth."

The governor also suggested the government could also contribute something to Best Sunshine's beautification campaign.

"One way of doing it, too is help fund and underwrite the cost

for the effort but I think what they want to do is go out there and hire the people that do the project themselves, which is fine."

Best Sunshine's \$7.1-billion integrated casino resort on Saipan involves the construction of 4,200 hotel rooms and 300 villas, a 600-seat theater, 10,000-square-meter casino floor, 10,000-square-meter retail area, over 20 F&B outlets, and a theme park.

SHEFA distributes total of \$847K in financial grants

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance has distributed a total of \$847,000 in scholarship awards to students for the fall semester.

SHEFA administrator Merissa S. Rasa said Thursday last week that \$520,700 of the total amount was for grant in aid, \$165,000 went to priority field of study award, and \$161,500 went to the merit incentive award.

Grant in aid is financial assistance given to eligible students, the priority field of study is awarded to students enrolled in a specialty area, while the merit award is given if the student performs really well during the school term.

Rasa disclosed that there were 1,221 applicants for the

fall term. About 514 were approved and 707 were denied.

"The reasons for denial is either the application was incomplete, did not meet the duration time, did not maintain the required number of credits, and did not maintain the 2.5 cumulative grade point average or higher," Rasa said.

She said that SHEFA is still accepting applications for the next spring term.

"All batches for awards were distributed and the new application deadline for new or returning applicants is on Dec. 1, 2014, and the deadline for submitting supporting documents for all applicants is next year, Feb. 28, 2015."

For more information and application assistance, call SHEFA at 233-5995 or email contact@saipanshefa.net.

DPH eyes reviving NCD Alliance

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to high numbers and increase in deaths from non-communicable diseases, the Division of Public Health under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will be holding a meeting to address these concerns next Tuesday.

The meeting, which will be held from 8am to 3pm at the Pacific Islands Club's Napu Room and hosted by DPH's Non-Communicable Disease Bureau, aims to bring together community members, partners and stakeholders to discuss the revival of the NCD Alliance.

In the CNMI, seven out of 10 deaths are caused by NCDs such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer and risk factors associated with NCDs such as high blood pressure, physical in-

activity, and tobacco use, to name a few.

In her letter of invitation to stakeholders, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna cited a nutrition cluster survey performed in 2008, which showed that 45 percent of the CNMI's 7- to 10-year-olds were obese or overweight.

"Children and teens who are obese have been found to have risk factors for cardiovascular disease including high cholesterol levels, high blood pressure, and abnormal glucose tolerance," Muña said.

"This shocking information indicates a need for our healthcare system to increase its efforts to partner and collaborate with community members, both private and faith-based organizations and other government agencies to tackle this threat," she added.

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MVA board OKs \$51K for Mt. Tapochau road

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority board approved yesterday to set aside \$51,000 that will be used to recondition an area of the Mt. Tapochau road.

The area to be reconditioned comprises some 350 feet of the road near the housing area.

MVA board vice chair James Nelson said he has visited the affected area and described it as treacherous, especially during rainy season.

“My primary concern first and foremost is the safety of the residents there and also the tour-



Tenorio

ists,” Nelson said.

MVA board member Jerry Tan inquired whether there is any long-term solution to fixing the road.

“I support this. My only question is that if we fix this, are there any long-term solutions to fixing the road because in my experience the entire road is a problem,” Tan said.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio told Tan that the

Department of Public Works is working on it but there are right of way issues that is preventing DPW from taking any action on the road at once.

Tan pointed out that they can't keep pulling funds from the MVA budget to fix the road if something happens to it again.

“Why don't we just fix the budget and fix the road and come up with maybe \$3 million funding for the project if it is going to fix the entire road,” Tan said.

Tenorio said he will work with DPW and see if there are any long term solutions to fixing the entire Mt. Tapochau road and come up with some figures.

Tan said that Mt. Tapochau is a major site that tourists do visit when they come to Saipan to get

a view of the whole island.

“If DPW would at least provide some ways or means of fixing the road, then a possible funding from MVA would maybe push through if MVA board

members discuss it further,” Nelson said.

The board approved the \$51,000 funding with the understanding that this will only be a part of a multi-agency collabora-

tion to fix the Mt. Tapochau road. The Saipan Mayor's Office and DPW will also be providing support, while Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan) will seek additional funding.

Shifting focus from career to family

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

After shifting her focus from a driven career as a tax lawyer to taking care of her parents and flying countless times to the mainland and back to Saipan, Alexis Fallon said she has come to learn to appreciate the simple moments in life.

“I have learned to appreciate simple moments. I am so

blessed to have both of my parents still on this earth despite serious illness,” she said. “While working on Saipan for the last few months, I miss the morning cups of coffee with my Dad.”

Fallon recounted how just before coming to Saipan, she set aside some time for her mother to talk about her jewelry and help put it away in a safety deposit box.

“With my tablet I took pictures of her jewelry for her. As I was doing this, I noticed that she had made handwritten notes that she carefully placed inside many of the jewelry boxes to go to her grandchildren, her niece, her godchild, and a dear friend. I paused—I realized that she

had come to terms that she was not long on this earth and that she wants to make sure that she does not forget anyone.”

It was at that moment that Fallon really paid attention, helping her mom review each piece of jewelry, learning of each one's history so that she too may know the stories and reminisce.

“I gave her my undivided attention. I focused on her as she struggled to make decisions. I was patient and not urgent. I simply sat with her. At times she would lose focus, she would go off in tangents of various stories, the jewelry would wait, then she would come back to the task. In the end, she had tears in her eyes as she said ‘thank you for taking your time, I know you are busy with getting ready for your business trip back to Saipan.’”

Fallon said she has now become adept in handling her anxiety of managing a solo tax practice and complex federal tax litigation, while taking care of her aging parents' needs.

“I am used to being uncomfortable with being uncomfortable. I simply exhale the urgent deadline-driven projects. I wipe away that stress when I sit down with them. Time slows down in their presence like watching water drop falling off a leaf after a storm.”

Fallon cherishes each moment with her parents, describing it as “precious, limited, and exquisite”.

“These conversations are finite as their time is on this earth. I have the privilege of taking care of them in their final years,” she added.

That made it that much big-



Fallon

ger of a struggle when Fallon had to leave her parents and return to Saipan for a work project.

“I also needed to get my older brother to spend time with my parents. He is so busy with his own family and work issues. He was not listening to me,” she noted.

Fallon explained that her sibling did not understand their parents' declining health condition.

“He was still blindly relating to them as they were when they were younger and healthier. He still expected them to help him. He did not see that dad needed his help to get up out of the chair but dad is too proud ask for his help,” she said. “My warnings and arguments fell on deaf ears.

So I told him I am going to Saipan and you are going to have to move in and take care of mom and dad. Our cousin Steven would help out on the weekends when you had your kids.”

The first few days were tough for her brother. Fallon said that as she was traveling she heard numerous complaints.

“I heard his mystified voice on the phone saying ‘they won't eat what I brought home. They do not know how to run the microwave. They do not know how to use the k-cup coffee maker. They want the same old coffee maker that they had from before. It's broken. The new coffee maker is better easier and cleaner’—on and on it went.”

About four months into her stay on Saipan, she said her brother's conversations noticeably started to change.

“He announced one day on the phone to me ‘I am staying with them over the weekends now. I helped Dad put in his eye drops after is cataract surgery. He is so small now. He is so weak. They are so fragile.’”

Fallon said that all of sudden the guilt lifted and the burden was off of her shoulders.

“I realized that God in His strange way arranged all these events perfectly. If I did not go to Saipan, my brother would have never taken the time to slow down and care for them. He would not have had the lovely opportunity that I have had for six years of all those great conversations.”

Just the other day, Fallon said, her brother told her, “You know, I make coffee in the morning for Dad and we sit and talk.”

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**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB15-DLNR/DFW-012**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“TRANSPORTATION AND DEPLOYMENT OF TWO (2) FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (FAD) IN CNMI WATERS OF ROTA. A PROJECT UNDER THE DLNR – DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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**/S/ MANUEL M. PANGELINAN
PUBLIC AUDITOR** **/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP15-BECQ/DCRM-006**

SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 17, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“TO COMPLETE A WETLANDS RAPID ASSESSMENT METHOD FOR THE CNMI. A PROJECT UNDER THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY”

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **NOVEMBER 19, 2014** FROM THE BECQ OFFICE OR BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO megan.jungwi@crm.mp.gov.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT CAN BE MADE TO MEGAN JUNGWATTANAPORN BY PHONE, (670) 664-8311, OR BY EMAIL AT megan.jungwi@crm.mp.gov. NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **DECEMBER 05, 2014**, CHAMORRO STANDARD TIME, UTC +10 HOURS (EMAIL IS PREFERRED). RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

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**/S/ FRANK M. RABAUIMAN
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ** **/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S**

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2015

Opening date: November 17, 2014 Closing date: December 5, 2014

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

**Position: (1) Staff Engineer (Saipan)
(1) Executive/Board Secretary**

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents is no later than 4:30 p.m., December 5, 2014.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact the CPA HR Administrator Ms. Rita Omar, by email at rita.omar@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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**/s/MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director**

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Job Vacancy Announcement**

(10) Civil Engineering Technicians: \$6.50 - \$8.50/hour OR \$1,300.00 - \$2,700.00/month
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(05) Mechanical Engineering Technicians: \$6.50 - \$8.50/hour OR \$1,300.00 - \$1,800.00/month
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as a Mechanical Engineering Technician with knowledge on how to apply Theory and Principles of Mechanical Engineering in planning, designing, as well as, overseeing construction, structure maintenance and other facilities, under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

(05) Electrical Engineering Technician: \$6.50 - \$8.50/hour OR \$1,300.00 - \$1,800.00/month
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(10) Auto Body Repairer: \$6.10 - \$7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 2 years' experience as an Auto Body Repairer. Knowledgeable on how to repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames.

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Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2-5 years' experience as a Truck Driver with knowledge on how to drive a Tractor Trailer or Trucks that has a capacity of at least 26,000 GVW for various construction materials transportation.

(08) Plumber: \$6.10 - \$7.75/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experienced as a plumber with knowledge on how to assemble, install, alter and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air, as well as, various types of liquids and gases. Able to install or assemble heating and cooling equipment, mechanical control systems and sprinkler fitters.

(07) Painter: \$6.10 - \$7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years' experience as Painter. Knowledgeable on how to operate/tend various painting machines. Able to paint transportation equipment surfaces, such as, automobiles, buses, trucks, trains, boats, airplanes, and etc.

(25) Carpenter: \$6.10 - \$8.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years' experience as a Carpenter. Knowledgeable on how to construct, erect, install, and repair structures and fixtures made of wood, such as, concrete forms, building frameworks, partitions, joists, studding, rafters, wooden stairways, window, door frames, and hardwood floors.

(10) Automobile Electrician: \$6.10 - \$7.50/hour
Must have at least 5 years work related experience. Able to diagnose and undertake electrical repairs on a wide variety of vehicles and heavy equipment. Must be knowledgeable on electric motor, alternator, starter and motor rewinding. Able to perform his/her duties with minimal supervision.

(10) Electrician: \$6.10 - \$7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as an Electrician. Knowledgeable on how to install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring of various equipment and fixtures. Able to install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems. Ensures that work is in accordance with relevant codes.

(15) Heavy Equipment Mechanic: \$6.10 - \$8.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years' experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. Knowledgeable on how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automobiles, hydraulics, and pneumatic equipment, such as, cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, typically used in constructions.

(40) Heavy Equipment Operator: \$6.10 - \$8.75.00/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as HE Operator. Knowledgeable on how to operate several types of power construction equipment, such as, motor graders, bulldozers, trenching machine, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grate earth, erect structures, pour concretes, and etc.

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(10) Plumber: \$6.10 - \$7.25/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years' experience as a Plumber. Knowledgeable on how to assemble, install, alter, and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air, or other liquids or gases. Able to install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control systems, including sprinkler fitters.

(20) WELDER: \$6.10 - \$8.25/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as a Welder. Knowledgeable on how to use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

All positions must be able to work flexible work hours.
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A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application.
Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required.
Closing Date: December 2, 2014
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TSL Foundation donates \$1K to Marines support group

From left, Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Maggie Sablan, Marine Corps Activity Guam officer-in-charge Col. P. J. Zimmerman, and Tan Holdings President Jerry Tan hold a giant-size replica of the \$1,000 check donated by the TSL Foundation to the 3rd Marine Division Association in Guam. Looking on at right is Tan Holdings corporate consultant David M. Sablan.

MARK RABAGO



As a salute to the military's contributions to the region, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation donated \$1,000 to the 3rd Marine Division Association in Guam on Monday.

Marine Corps Activity Guam officer-in-charge Col. P. J. Zimmerman, who just happened to be visiting Saipan early this week, received the donation.

"It's a pleasure to get the donation so I can present it to the 3rd Marine Division Association in Guam. They do great things for deployed Marines who come in. They teach them about the history of the region and throw barbecues for them. So I'm sure they're going to put the money into good use," said Zimmerman after accepting the donation on behalf of the group at the ground floor of the JP Center Building in Garapan.

The 3rd Marine Division Association in Guam is a support group for Marines as well as veterans of the Marine Corps who live in Guam.

Tan Holdings president Jerry

Tan said the donation is just a small token when one considers the military's big role in the region and how military personnel always put their lives in harm's way.

"The military plays an important role in our region, including the Commonwealth. So we're just happy and very grateful for everything they do everyday to fight for our freedom. This is only a small way of supporting their special activities," he said.

TSL Foundation manager Maggie Sablan said the \$1,000 donation to the 3rd Marine Division Association in Guam marks the first time in her tenure that the foundation extended a donation to the military.

"Other than the Operation CNMI Homefront Support Program and the care packages, this is the first time we are donating to a military group. But we are very happy to take part in the support group's fundraising project to provide toys for Toys-for-Tots. The foundation recog-

nizes the importance of community development and health and human services, as such, this type of donation, regardless of it being our own local community or the military, it is always the foundation's pleasure to bring joy and good tidings to children and families."

The TSL Foundation, the charitable arm of Tan Holdings Corp., stretches over the Micronesian region with six fields of interest that reflect hundreds of donations every year. These include education, sports, community development, health and human services, environment, and arts and culture. With these fields, Sablan said the foundation supports countless activities, events, groups of people, organizations, etc. throughout the year. (Mark Rabago)

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TAKECARE FOUNDATION DONATION Guma' Esperansa, anti-domestic violence group to obtain grants

TakeCare Foundation will present grants to Guma' Esperansa and Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014, at 3pm at the FHP Health Center on Saipan.

"Our foundation will be donating \$3,000 to Guma' Esperansa to assist with their outreach initiatives to provide care and services to victims of violence and their children, and \$5,000 to the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence to help fund their one-day community event [that] will focus on raising awareness about sexual assault prevention and intervention" said Sylvia Duenas, TakeCare Foundation adviser.

Guma' Esperansa, a program of Karidat Social Services, is a shelter for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and human trafficking in the CNMI. The non-profit

organization works daily to provide care and services to victims of violence and their children who have fled their homes to seek safe shelter.

Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote, nourish and sustain a collective movement to end violence in the CNMI.

The TakeCare Foundation is composed of employees of TakeCare Insurance and the FHP Health Center who are devoted to charitable and educational causes that enhance the health, wellness and welfare of individuals, families and the public at large. It is unique because it is employee-driven. TakeCare and FHP employees play a major role in assisting with the contributions and the selection process of the grant recipients. (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

For immigrants, Obama offers needed breathing room

After years of debate and division, President Obama announced Thursday that he would use his executive powers to revamp the nation's immigration system. But wait, you say, isn't that Congress' responsibility? Well, yes, it is, and if Congress had done its job, the nation wouldn't be at this juncture. But here we are.

On the substance, the president is absolutely right. The immigration system is broken and unfair; it has resulted in a permanent class of illegal workers, it separates families and it denies a place in society to immigrants who work hard, pay taxes and have deep ties to the country. There are 11 million immigrants living in the United States without authorization—more than 3 million in California alone—and it makes practical and moral sense to legalize their status and offer them a path to citizenship.

But even though Congress has been discussing these issues for more than a decade, it has repeatedly failed, for reasons both political and substantive, to move a bill through both houses. A frustrated Obama finally announced—after initially saying he lacked the legal authority—that he would act on his own. His decision will, we hope, offer some breathing room to millions of immigrant families who have been living under the threat of deportation. But it also raises serious questions about the limits of executive authority.

Under Obama's plan, the government will defer the deportation of parents of children who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, if the parents have been in the country for five years. He will also expand the pool of so-called Dreamers—those who came to this country illegally as children—who are eligible for deferrals. He will not offer deferrals to their parents.

In all, some 5 million people could receive deferrals under the plan. Those who don't have a criminal record will then be eligible for work permits. Obama also will expand the number of work visas available to foreign students graduating from U.S. colleges so that they aren't forced to take their education and skills elsewhere.

People receiving deferrals will not be eligible for health coverage under the Affordable Care Act, nor will they qualify for other federal programs, such as food stamps, that support low-income citizens, permanent residents and others here legally.

Those are welcome changes, for the most part. But the process by which Obama achieved them is troubling on several fronts. We dislike the ease with which he shifted from saying he lacked the authority to act—to acting anyway. While most presidents use their executive powers from time to time—and Obama has done so to raise the minimum wage for federal contract workers and to protect federal employees from gender discrimination, among other things—his immigration plan is of a breadth and scale that may push the boundaries further than they've been pushed before. Liberals who approve of the president's action should remember what they thought when George W. Bush claimed executive authority to act without congressional approval; they were not pleased by what they perceived as an end run around the rule of law.

Obama's decision not to deport millions of people has been framed as an issue of "prosecutorial discretion," but that seems disingenuous. Although it may be true that Congress has budgeted enough money for the Department of

See OBAMA on Page 11

IF PRESIDENT OBAMA IS CONSIDERED A DICTATOR
FOR TAKING EXECUTIVE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION
THEN HE'S GOT COMPANY*.



*EVERY PRESIDENT SINCE THE 1950S HAS GRANTED IMMIGRATION RELIEF IN ONE
FORM OR ANOTHER TO VARIOUS GROUPS IN NEED OF CONSIDERATION

brandonmccarroll.com

The Good Earth

Pearl Buck's novel, *The Good Earth*, is one of her trilogy written in the 30s referring to the rich soil in China's river plains. We now brush into the ever-present particle that clings to clothes and fills the air in the northeast: dust.

Growing up in a rainforest coastal town in the Philippines meant verdant fields. A speck of dust was an intruder, the presence of its kind an indication of a duster's lethargy, not abundance.

With the accelerated cutting of trees from the forest came stirred dust twice a day from passenger buses that plied the Aparri-Laoag traffic. Soon, dust was no longer a benign stranger to be gently nudged out but an enemy to be banished, belligerently guarded from. Their tribe multiplied with the logging trucks.

Unless the rains failed to arrive as scheduled, Aparri's dust drenched with the sand. We were a delta at the mouth of the Cagayan River and the sand was more plentiful than their airborne cousins. Still, I developed the obsession of dusting while I grew older. I tolerated or fought the dust, depending on which nook of the planet I was in, tolerating it on Saipan where one mostly grabbed the hankie while inhaling dust at the motorbike races north of Banzai Cliff.

It was in Kano, Nigeria where I was overwhelmed by dust in the air, confronted for the first time by a humongous sand storm from the Sahara, forcing our Lagos-bound plane to prematurely land. I ended up in Ijede by the Lagos Lagoon so I learned to tolerate the soil as part of the scenery rather than grime.

Specks of soil were my first nemesis in *Dong Bei*, not because they were present but because they were tolerated everywhere. And, yes, it is everywhere.

I lived for three years ending last year on the 11th floor of SAU's Friendship Villa where the faculty and staff of the International Education College were located and where foreigners are billeted. For the absence of a northern sun in the room assigned to me, I went for a south-facing room that received the sun all year round. A mistake. It also faced a four-lane street to the coal-littered grounds of the steam generating plant across, with swirling dust on the uplift of the Siberian winds that swept down Manchuria's plains.

Spoiled for the adequacy of university heat and water, I was tolerant of the outside dust as long as I had it under control in my room. A wet mop was a constant, never far from periodic touches to the floor and accumulations in ends and corners got the reach of hand rags.

The PMI (particulate matter index) alert is quite literally another matter!

When I moved off-campus, I realized how valuable the water was and how the dust is taken for granted in peoples' daily lives. My solarium plants drown in H₂O; my neighbor's are misted. My

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



plants are robust while the neighbor's are like bonsai. She favors plants that require little dampness. Half of her garden grows cacti. My spider plants with a taro and a few florae bearing white flowers that bloom in the morning and pink in the evening join crawling vines next to the laundry line while bell peppers droop their branches. I germinate durian seeds in the cold!

My neighbor washes clothes and utensils on the sidewalk. She uses the water well before it is thrown out into the street to settle the dust on the ground. Sponge baths get the children cleaned, with liberal use of washcloths applied to strategic lymph nodes to ensure hygiene.

I've since learned how to handle water, the kitchen faucets no longer continuously heard running; ditto for shower spouts. I also discovered why the toilet bowl does not hold standing water; one does not flush in doing number three. It goes down by gravity!

My host family's home near downtown Shenyang proved to be a painful venue of an unforgettable learning occasion. The host Mama went out to the store after a festive meal while the house Papa snored in bed, so I had the kitchen to myself. I did my hosts a favor, dusting off the piled Chinese cabbage, washed the carrots, potatoes, and radishes in the kitchen solarium. A mistake. It turned out the soil delayed the veggies rotting, absorbing the dampness as it dried, giving it the protective cover needed rather than the rapid wrinkling of the skin exposed to air after cleaned.

Dust bugged me in San Jose at Oleai. That was benign compared to the PMI that alarms Dong Bei lungs. Temperature feels cold even under sunshine compared to the greenhouse effect of smog that retains atmospheric heat in the overcast skies; this welcome paradox goes with the facemask. Host mother lost cover protection of the cabbage outer leaves, and the carrot-potato-radish aged faster due to my dust-phobia.

Turkey and pumpkin are in American tables tomorrow, started in a rite of gratitude for the Good Earth's bounty when Massachusetts's indigenes and Pilgrim neighbors feasted on the fruits of the New England soil.

Dust on the food table these days is my good earth's bounty in Manchuria; also, the color of my true loves hair!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published.

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Relationship with Japan

On my first trip to Japan in the late '70s, I wasn't sure what to expect of a small, wealthy, and fully disciplined country. I only had fond memories of my folks' nostalgic stories of growing up during the Japanese administration of these isles before the war.

I marvel at her achievements and stunned by her wealth—a resource-poor country—yet ranks top three on economies of scale worldwide. Her global economic success has since been lodged in my mind poking the nerves of my curiosity interminably.

The single most vital question: What's her foundational tool that gradually led to her success reinvading the entire global village in the '60s with superior goods and services? I have since searched for the answer.

It's in the education of her people. This was followed by the dedication of funds to rebuild the country after the war. Education was the single foundation used by other successful economies in the Asian region to bring their economic strength to the global level. Recalled reading the Matsushita story and his humble beginnings that turned global success.

More than 60 years was spent sending her people to schools in Europe and the U.S. It's the wealth and benefits of academic and technical educational expertise secured by her most brilliant people upon which was founded and built the one of the world's most successful economies.

From seafood, fruits, steak and rice for diabetics Japan rates top 1 percent! I mean I've seen it all in official dinner outings. Her prawns are larger than our lobster, not to mention a tomato plant that produced 3,000 fruits. It's awesome all the advances she's undertaken on sustainable entrepreneurship designed and refined to last a lifetime.

It's a country to emulate from A-Z. It must begin with the education of our people. This agenda may be a challenge given that it has to take the form of policy No. 1. But it's the single pill that would trigger a far more organized development moving toward the middle of this century. Herein lies the real future of paradise! Trust me, Japan has the most experience and expertise on investments outside

the country. The other country that succeeded in similar fashion is teeny Cuba.

With vision and leadership this too could be revisited so we explore opportunities to revive the two sectors—farming and fishing—two foundational tradition since time immemorial.

The IT has IT!

The Inos/Torres tandem has soundly secured new political mandate with 57 percent of the total votes cast. The Hofschneider/Yumul team had 43 percent or trails by 1,500 votes. Congratulations to the victors!

Republicans had well-paid off-island political consultants behind its team. It also had a gravy train in the form of a \$10 million utility voucher voters turned to cud. No wonder even morally bankrupt mega-billionaires recite scripture. But it's done and we look forward to IT reworking the deepening economic depression.

The result of this election is itself a tale that we wish to veer off culture and tradition. Insightful intuition brings very troubling visions though. But it's a future gift-wrapped in parameters defined by Election 2014. Unless other anchor investments provide solid economic footing, tradition is basically history.

Stunning indigenous resiliency succumbing to expediency. Call it political demagoguery. The voucher lure was too tall an order to untangle and the decision by folks to embrace it is a confirmation of dire hardship throughout households.

Someday we would begin seeing bejeweled public officials waving with real flashes from their wrists and faces beaming. Anyway, I've said my intuitive piece and feel comfortable being vindicated now and beyond the echo of my grave. Hope the NMI doesn't turn into the desert land torched by our own indecision. Ask your folks for a 30-year voucher to cushion your needs.

The Obama presidency

The recent national election is a clear repudiation of the Obama presidency. His policies were shot down resoundingly by Ameri-

ative tourist attractions—a “floating petting zoo” or a beach supplemented with imported sand from Dubai. Sir Goldstein leaves the decision up to Best Sunshine.

Arnold Gillsforlungs of Dandan would like to explore the construction of an artificial reef system on Saipan's eastside. His dream is for a reef stocked with “genetically-modified, fat, lazy parrotfish.” Interesting idea, Mr. G., but does Best Sunshine have the technology?

John Johnson, the guy so nice they named him twice, would love to have an annual snow shower to coincide with Christmas morning. Mr. Johnson would prefer that this miraculous weather event begin its annual occurrence this December, but recognizes that this feat may require that Best Sunshine reverse the current process of global warming.

Ronald Ringsabell of Garapan would like to see several new nature preserves. Ronald is insistent that these be a priority so that he may wander amidst Saipan's native flora and fauna to find his soul, which he claims was taken from him in the form of CUC vouchers.

Fabio Longlegs of Kagman feels that it is important for Saipan's youth to be involved in the transformation of their island, and would like to arrange a few play dates for his children with the first-born sons of Best Sunshine's executives.

Jeff Cabbagepatch of Tanapag requests a weeklong stay at the spa in the company of Best Sunshine's executives, so that he can get to know them a bit better. Now who wouldn't want this? After all, it's important that we feel comfortable with the new architects of Saipan's socio-economic structure.

OBAMA

From Page 10

Homeland Security and the Department of Justice to remove only 400,000 illegal immigrants a year—out of the pool of more than 11 million—scarce resources and setting priorities are not the issues here. The president is seeking to enact a policy that he has been unsuccessful in persuading Congress to support. That's not how policy should be made.

There are also pragmatic questions. The president's actions will theoretically allow millions of immigrants here illegally to come out of the shadows. But executive actions are easily reversible. What will happen after Obama leaves office in January 2017? For that matter, will immigrants today be willing to participate? Those who do so will be telling the government “Here I am,” acting on faith that the next president won't reverse course and use the deferral applications as a round-up list for deportations.

The president has made his decision, and we hope it works out for the best, offering welcome relief to immigrant families. But still, as Obama himself has noted, executive action will not bring final reso-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



cans all over the country. Unfortunately, it's policies with lies as its foundation, e.g., “If you like your plan...you can keep it.” Millions of displaced Americans found out they can't “keep it.” Power hails from both ends of the stick: emperor-in-chief and “we the people.”

Obama had a bright future as head of our country. But he dims and trashes it all for failure to live up to his commitment. He instantly forgets promises after leaving the teleprompter. But his playground, the campaign trail, he finds a bit different this year. The huge loss of Democrats is a harsh rebuke of his failed policies. His recent action on immigration is far from the “audacity of hope” but the “tenacity of lawlessness!”

Murder and disappearance

There's fear how this island has turned into Murder Island 2x2, e.g., the disappearance of the Yamada sisters up north, murder of a couple in San Vicente, the murder of four Chinese farmers in southern Saipan. How convenient for DPS to rule the disappearance of the two girls as “lost at sea.” Really? Is this its quickest exit from doing its job?

What about the murder of the San Vicente couple gone cold? Do we ignore it? What about the murder of Chinese farmers? Do we ignore it too because they happen to be other than our own? The fact that these folks were here legally is sufficient reason to burn the midnight oil to go after the culprits. These heinous crimes should have DPS searching for answers 24/7.

We can only hope that a Sunny Santa delivers this year.

Clark Griswold

Garapan, Saipan

An awesome race

Last weekend I had the opportunity to fly to Guam to compete in the annual Tour of Guam 105K bike race. I was accompanied by an exceptional young rider, Wynn Brillo, who also competed for Saipan. This was his first time to compete in this race and he did incredibly well coming in 26th place overall (there were 161 riders that participated, some in the long course, some in the short and some in teams). Wynn and I both competed in the long course. I'm pleased to say that we both took first place in our respective age categories! This was Wynn's first time to compete in this race and my fourth. I'd like to give a very big “THANK YOU” to my sponsors: the Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation, Brabu Pharmacy, Dee Clayton, Lee and Kathleen Bowen, and my friend Arthur who is a teacher with PSS. If it wasn't for all of you, I would not be able to keep competing in this awesome race. Thank you again and congratulations, Wynn!

Susan Marchitti

Chinatown, Saipan

lution to the problem. Fewer than half of those living in the country illegally will be helped by his actions, and those only temporarily. Related issues such as border security and what to do about illegal immigration in the future have not been addressed. And by acting unilaterally, the president has further antagonized Republicans, likely cementing their intransigence. (“Sticking your finger in the eye of a recently elected Republican Congress” is how Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee described Obama's move. House Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio warned that the president was “playing with fire.”)

We understand the deep frustration felt by immigrants and their advocates, and we understand why Obama moved now. But this is an issue that must ultimately be solved legislatively, with all sides giving a little and getting a little. Comprehensive immigration reform hashed out through the political process remains the best and only long-term solution. A new Congress—a Republican-led Congress—will take office in January, and plenty of compromise by both the president and lawmakers will be necessary if progress is to be made on this terribly important issue.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wishing while we wait: Dreams of a Sunshine Christmas

The next time Saipan is subjected to an airless, sultry evening, take a walk through your respective village and take a moment to appreciate a new-fangled humming sound.

It is the song of multiple air-conditioners coming to life. In the wake of Best Sunshine's CUC vouchers our island has been treated to some novelties. While many appreciate this gift, Best Sunshine appears to have assumed the role of a gift giver. This is a risky position to adopt in such close proximity to the holidays.

Over the past week I took the liberty of surveying over 100 community members to gauge Saipan's expectations for this Christmas. The following is a sample of some of the more eccentric responses I received on this wish list. Let this be a cordial message to Best Sunshine that the people of the Marianas anticipate some innovative changes. Note that all residents' names have been altered to maintain anonymity, and I have omitted more reasonable wishes that a certain Mr. Claus will likely take care of himself...

Marcus Castruis of As Matuis would very much appreciate Best Sunshine's assistance in completing the construction of his house.

Bernie Biscuit of San Antonio would like to welcome the plethora of new development by taking up a new sport, and requests the construction of “an indoor ice hockey rink.”

Amy Longshanks of Koblerville would like one million dollars. If this is a bit much, she will also “settle for a few mortgage payments” on her house and “a block of Ahi tuna.”

Anna Bananapeel is concerned about increased traffic, and would like to see the timely emergence of “a system of bike lanes and safe pedestrian corridors” along all of Saipan's major thoroughfares. Her husband, Slipsona, disagrees, and feels that an islandwide monorail system would be a superior solution. We'll let the Bananapeels come to an agreement, but Best Sunshine is encouraged to consider whatever compromise they reach.

Margarita Bunion of Capital Hill would love to see the road to Mt. Tapochau re-paved. She imagines “a collaboration with DPW for the construction” but expects Best Sunshine to provide the paving material, which would “obviously consist of gems and precious metals.” A yellow brick road would suffice.

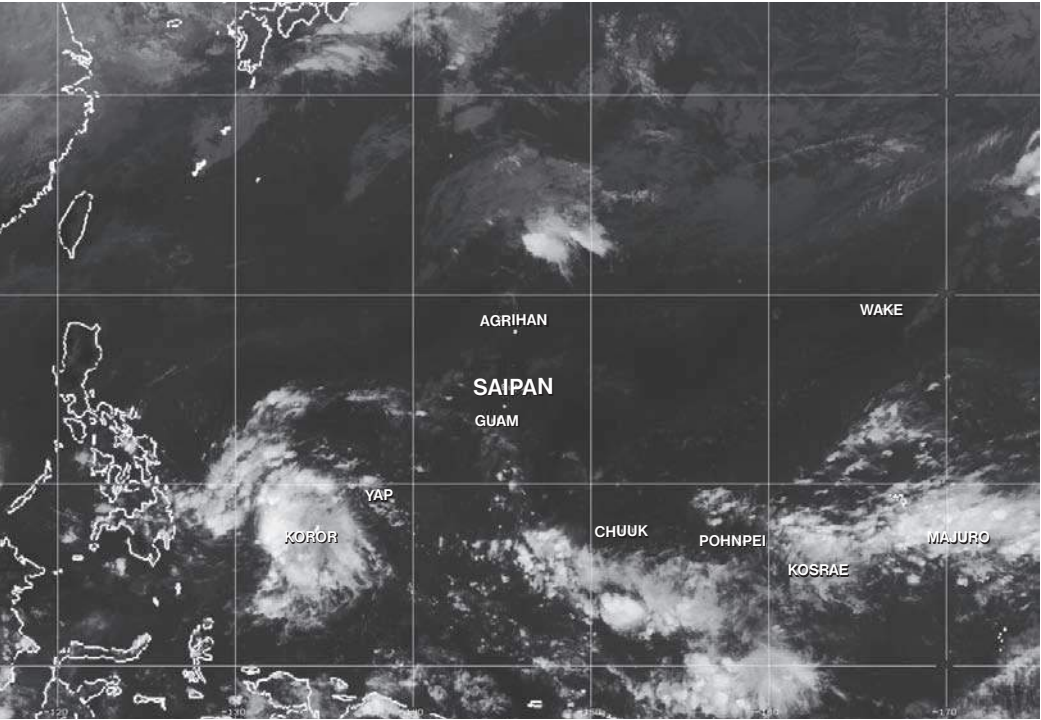
Sir Archibold Goldstein took his time in taking my survey, but could not come to a decision between two very different, but cre-

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A circulation centered near Koror at 7N132E is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Republic of Palau between 9N and 4N from 132E to 138E. A surface trough curves westward from 22N148E to 24N143E to 21N139E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 25N and 21N from 140E to 149E. A shear line stretches westward from 25N169E to 22N160E to 23N150E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk and Pohnpei within 150 miles of a line from 7N148E to 3N157E to EQ159E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands within 150 miles of a line from 5N162E to 8N171E to 7N180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼81
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼81
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼82

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Showers	▲68	▼55
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼31
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼70
Honolulu	Sunny	▲79	▼71
London	Cloudy	▲51	▼47
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78	▼57
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼51
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼74
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲54	▼42
Osaka	Showers	▲62	▼49
Paris	Showers	▲53	▼49
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼46
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼54
Salem	Cloudy	▲58	▼49
San Francisco	Sunny	▲68	▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼38
Tokyo	Rain	▲54	▼48
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲57	▼43

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
4:01 AM	Today	High Tide:	-0.4 Feet
11:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:46 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.2 Feet
9:26 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:26 AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	9:34 AM	9:22 PM
Thursday	10:27 AM	10:21 PM
Friday	11:18 AM	11:20 PM
Saturday	12:06 PM	
Sunday	12:53 PM	12:17 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	5:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764A	1:30am	5:30am	4, 7	MU763A	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 6
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 5	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:50pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
				UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Make-A-Wish raises \$4.6K at Wish Night fundraiser

Make-A-Wish Guam/CNMI enjoyed a casual evening of great food and drinks at the Naked Fish Bar & Grill on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014. Local patrons and community organizations gathered at the restaurant to help raise \$4,563 toward granting wishes directly to CNMI's Wish Kids.

Board members John An-

tenocruz, Kanae Quinn, executive director Victor Camacho, and programs manager Kaleen Aguon were all present.

Make-A-Wish sincerely appreciates the tremendous support of the following companies who generously contributed to the 2nd annual event: Bank of Guam, Blue Continent Communications, BSEA

Sunsports, Chong's Corp., Coral Ocean Point & Resort Club, First Hawaiian Bank, Flame Tree TV Productions Co., Gold's Gym Saipan, Hula Girl Ice Cream, Island Apparel, Java Café, Joeten Enterprises, Marianas Medical Center, Mariana Resort & Spa, MarPac, Naked Fish Bar & Grill, PIC Saipan, Pacific Trading Co., Sorensen Media Group - Power99, Sweet Escape, T Galleria - DFS Saipan Ltd., The Coffee Room, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Titan Imports, Triple J Wholesale, Capricciosa's, Truong's, Tony Roma's, Truckload

Store, United Airlines, and Xerox Corp.

The evening's program included a fabulous array of 15 raffle prize packages, live music and an emotional, heart-warming speech presented by Catrina Jean Pantaleon, a 14-year-old CNMI Wish Kid. Her tear-jerking speech silenced the room as she expressed her feelings and experiences about her Wish.

"On July 28, 2014, my wish came to a reality. Through the Make A Wish Foundation I was able to enjoy a week of fun-filled, thrilling and stom-

ach-filling adventure with my whole family, which I will cherish for the rest of my life. Make A Wish Foundation has been a channel of God's blessing for me and my family. God has shown his love for us through the hard work and dedication of the people behind Make A Wish like Naked Fish and many others. Just recently we found out that I have a Grade IV brain tumor, whatever that is. So, I have to start drinking chemo meds again. I do not know what will happen to me while I'm drinking the chemo meds or how my body

will react to it, but the memories of my Wish trip will always remind me that miracles do happen and wishes do come true."

Make-A-Wish Guam/CNMI continues its work to transform dreams into reality. In addition, Make-A-Wish requests the community's support in helping with referrals for potential Wish Kids who face life-threatening medical conditions. Anyone in our community can make a referral so please let us know of any family whose child may be eligible. You may contact us through our local number (670) 483-9474 (WISH).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Wish Kid Catrina Jean Pantaleon is joined by her family during a trip to Disneyland as part of her wish.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Wish Kid Catrina Jean Pantaleon is joined by family members and Make-A-Wish Guam/CNMI board members at the Wish Night fundraiser at the Naked Fish Bar & Grill on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014.

About Make-A-Wish Foundation

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Founded in 1980 when a group of caring volunteers helped a young boy fulfill his dream of becoming a police officer, the foundation is one of the world's leading children's charities, with 64 chapters in the United States and its territories. With the help of generous donors and nearly 25,000 volunteers, the Make-A-Wish Foundation grants a wish every 40 minutes and has granted more than 200,000 wishes in the United States since its inception.

For more information about the Make-A-Wish Foundation, visit guam.wish.org and discover how you can share the power of a wish. **(MAWF)**

KAGMAN HIGH SCHOOL'S HONOREES

PRINCIPALS LIST

GRADE 9
Christian Arceo
Mannelyn Cabrera
Kayleen Faisao
Julie Anne Loong
Aaron Luis Ogumoro
Frances Santos
Patrick Jerome Santos
Bella Semens
Nathaley Smith
Dionessis Valdisimo
Edson Valdisimo

A HONOR ROLL

GRADE 9
Naomi Billimon
Kayjon Bradley Boadi
Gedin Cabrera
Kyle Joshua Camacho
Trinity Mae Camacho
Alyssa Rae Cepeda
Maureen Kate Cruz
Roselle Dela Cruz
Tamika Hossuin
Marikishalin Iguel
Chelsea Isip
Junita Jetley
Immaculada Litulumar
Agnes Carmen Lizama
Oscar Wayne Lizama
Aldionne Maglanque
Lordina Pangelinan
Kyle Keanu Quitano
Jelbert Quitagua
Enrique Rabauliman
Francine Brianna Rago
Florence Fatima Sarker
Eugene Villagomez

B HONOR ROLL

GRADE 9
Jeremy Agulto

Kyoki Agulto
Miguel Agulto
Zavannah Aldan
Debra Atinisom
Alejandra Camacho
Benny Lynn Camacho
Bryan Camacho
Jose Joshua Camacho
Michael Camacho
Shelby Agatha Camacho
Jeffrey Kim Consignado
Joey Ken Cruz
Austin Deleon Guerrero
Latish Deleon Guerrero
Kyle Fabia
Michaelangelo Fitil
John Joshua Granada
Boz Spencer Igitol
Benen Iguel
Trini Marie Iguel
Kekun Kaainoa
Antonina Kani
Christine Joy Kapileo
Kurt Kyle Kapileo
Ngrirabeketei Kelulau
Magdalena Lieto
Klein Justine Lizama
Trinie Luisa Lizama
Leikita Maliuyaf
Andrei Membrere
Dean Joshua Mendiola
Delores Rita Mendiola
Anjelica Mortel
Jose Naputi
Leila Nawaz
Piimaiyo Nekaifés
Greggy Pinaula
Ben Anthony Sanchez
Charmel Shrestha
Trion Sulap
Vincent Torres Jr.
Jovita Rachel Trecho

PRINCIPALS LIST

GRADE 10
David John Babauta
Retim Fred Jr. Billy
Kloe Kate Borja
Kycel Laurence Butters
Andrea Camacho
Benellen Camacho
Brittney Hamilton
Jocielyn Lacay
Talianna Magofna
Angela Muna
Riana Ignacia Nauta
Alfred Ngalongalo Jr.
Kiara Jean Peter
Alexa San Nicolas
Iramhel Talon

A HONOR ROLL

GRADE 10
Avery Joseph Aguon
Audrey Rose Camacho
Philippe Ernest Lacson
Jonas Seikou Okawa
Juan Quitagua, Jr.
Machael John Rebamba
Lilly-Ann Sablan
Isaiah Joel Torre

B HONOR ROLL

GRADE 10
Augustin Aguon Jr.
Kowsar Alam
Noreen Ashley Angui
Neling Arriola
Alyssa Babauta
Tiara Jaime Babauta
Abundio Jr. Besenio
Katherine Besenio
Steffany Calantog
Peter Camacho Jr.
Tiyani Camacho
Jenam Lynn Cangco

Deeana Therese Castro
Jeffrey Jr. Castro
Jacob Chen
Erika Coronado
Lennox Iderbei
Meredith Iderbei
Grace Iriarte
Zachary Colby Itibus
Vincent Leon Guerrero
Kenneth Mafnas
Christopher Magofna
Penina Magofna
Jonathan Maniego
Nikela Masayos
Chelsey Lynn Mendiola
Mohammed Mobin
Donald Jr. Pangelinan
Candy Quijano
Jose Quitano
Shanaia Rabauliman
Tasi Sablan
Cory Ray San Nicolas
Philippe Santos
Nathan Michael Santos
Virolanson Secharmida
Mildred Joanna Seman
Kayona Maria Takami
Tara Tudela
Kay Dee Neisow Xavier

PRINCIPALS LIST

GRADE 11
Rayanna Angelina Aldan
Elizabeth Britney Basa
Lilly Jean Bautista
Joseph Cabrera
Asako Camacho
Sarah Lynn Kapileo
Karen Mae Laoyan
Alexandra Litulumar
Mikeala San Nicolas
Peter Anthony Santos
Anthony Jacob Torres

Gavin Thomas Trinidad

A HONOR ROLL

GRADE 11
Mary Jane Anon
Cassey Babauta
Jerry Diego Borja
Sage Borja
Florens Buekis
Kris Butters
Jessa Mae Camacho
Richelle Ann Castro
Victor Juan Castro
Joaquin Joseph Chong
Dionne Indalecio
Fatimah Islam
Darion David Jones
Ana Lieto
Kelsey Lizama
Edel Mendiola
Natasha Ngirausui
Andrew Paul Palino
Jacqueline Julia Route
Guadalupe Maria Santos
Amara Mae Taitingfong
Viron Joel Tenorio
Kyle John Tydingco

B HONOR ROLL

GRADE 11
Venessa Abraham
Jim Ryan Ada
Akio Junior Aguon
Zasha Jerlissa Aldan
Deevonne Anson
Allison Arellano
Audrea Dora Blas
Cary Adrian Camacho
Devannia Camacho
Willdon Camacho
Robert Castro
Perry Angelo Celis
Hilaria Magdale Duenas
Selena Joseph Funkugub
Nimei George
Mardee-Ann Hermosilla

Travis Jude Kaliga
Micah Ann Kapileo
Raynalynn Kapileo
Angela Keremen
Wilma Jean Lieto
Benikina Ann Lizama
Keith Lizama
Tonnya Lynn Magofna
Angelica Manglona
Rosalia Mendiola
Agnes Rose Mongami
Wileen Jody Mongami
Michael Thomas Muna
John Dee Paran
Jesus Marino Pua
Kiana Pua
Lou Frances Doreen Pua
Coreen Jermaine Ramon
Esteara Rios
Nikita Robert
Sasha Mae Sablan
Polyn Audrey Salas
Francisco Salik
Joaquin San Nicolas
Hans Christian Sante
Aaron Peter Santos
Sabrina Magdal Santos
Samantha Santos
Sinadel Carmen Seman
Josnen Shoking
Foyals Sojib
Nico Franklin Tadao
Leonard Jesse Tenorio
Roke Tenorio
Alisha Villagomez
Ervin Lee John Wabol

PRINCIPALS LIST

GRADE 12
Nathan Royce Angui
Vladimir Arceo
Darryl Maveric Aurelio
Jared John Ayuyuy
Christopher Babauta
Francisco Babauta
Dray Jose Borja

Dimitrios Camacho
Romana Chong
Dionne Deleon Guerrero
Lisa Marie Guzman
Malaina Kileleman
Margarita Kileleman
Kenneth Lizama
Jadrien Lotoc
Yoshi Ray Mafnas
Pazlee Grace Martinez
Mebric Navisaga
Adrian Jade Ngalongalo
Jackie Ogumoro
Tina Olaitiman
Rufina Olupomar
Bobison Prado Jr.
Christian Punzalan
Angelo Carlo Racadio
Paolo Josef Reyes
Shivon Reyes
Christine Connie Route
Clea San Nicolas
Michael Santos
Trina Lyn Santos
Darla Sulap
Kealana Lei Taitano
Michael Ian Talon

A HONOR ROLL

GRADE 12
Jose Peter Angui
Benito Aguon Jr.
Colleen Mildred Borja
Jonathan Borja
Kimverlyn Mae Butters
Emmalou Mae Cabrera
Marjony Camacho
Paul Anthony Celis
Danielle Concepcion
Sharon Cudiamat
Justice Evangelista
Zepder George
Brett Jr. K Halstead
Kioki Kyler Kapileo
Tiana Joshlyn Lieto
Carmen Julia Litulumar

Kozo Litulumar
Jemima Manibusan
Maelyn Matilde Naputi
Wendy Nicholas
Javin Okawa
Sharon Joanna Palacios
Pauline Nicole Palino
Wileen Rabauliman
Jenny Sablan
Peter Joshua Towai
Rieko Villagomez

B HONOR ROLL

GRADE 12
Cedric Ada
Alice Gabrielle Agulto
Allan Andrew Aguon
Chicko Arurang
Jacob Babauta
Joann Besenio
Albert Edward Camacho
Maggie Jane Crisostomo
Catalina Dela Cruz
Ammma-Lyn Deleon Guerrero
Aghilimal Jesus Faisao
Doming Jr. Faisao
Liyelmatau Gini Gideon
Sahjad Hossain
Brandi Sheyanne Igitol
Preschanel Igitol
Jasmine Jones
Chelsea Lynn Leskosek
Ismael Amata Litulumar
Duanenayn Lizama
Joelin Metta
Justine Ariana Nauta
Nicolette Ngirausui
Ian Joseph Norita
Ruth Andreaa Norita
Dion Joseph Ogo
David Palacios
James Arthur Phillips
Dexter Rabauliman
Keesha Kiana Selbart
Tanapon Unsa
William Weita

RED RIBBON WEEK

ESFDB students win drawing and essay contests

In an effort to prevent drug use and educate the youth, the Pacific Regional Training Institute – Child, Youth, & School Services, in collaboration with the National Family Partnership, invited public and private schools in Guam and on Rota to participate in its Annual Red Ribbon Drawing and Essay Contest.

Nine students from Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja won cash prizes for their entries to the 2014 Red Ribbon Week Drawing and Essay Contests.

Students took the Red Ribbon Campaign prevention message into their homes, neighborhoods, and schools with this contest. It's a fun and creative way for teachers, parents, and volunteers to educate children about the dangers of drug use while they draw and write using this year's theme, "Love Yourself. Be Drug Free."

The winners are:

■ In the 1st to 2nd Grade Level Drawing Category:

1st Place, Edward U. Maratita III

2nd Place, Titus Hugh T. Hocog

3rd Place, Star C. Mendiola

■ In the 3rd to 6th Grade Level Drawing Category:

1st Place, Éclair Marj Ladao

2nd Place, Maria Althea C. Mendiola

3rd Place, John Kent Clitar



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First to 2nd Grade Level Drawing Category winners, from left, Edward U. Maratita III (1st Grade), Star C. Mendiola (2nd Grade), and Titus Hugh T. Hocog (2nd Grade).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Third to 6th Grade Level Drawing Category winners, from left, John Kent Clitar (4th Grade) Éclair Marj Ladao (3rd Grade), and Maria Althea Mendiola (5th Grade).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seventh to 8th Grade Level Drawing Category winners, from left, Aneshia Ciony Reyes (7th Grade), Angelo S. Lucero (7th Grade), and Tyra Reese A. Calvo (8th Grade).

■ In the 7th to 8th Grade Level Essay Category:

1st Place, Aneshia Ciony M. Reyes

2nd Place, Angelo Lucero

3rd Place, Tyra Reese A. Calvo

"I applaud the students for a great work. The artistic and writings challenge our students to think about the important issues such as drugs," said administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig. "It is always difficult choosing the winning entries, as they are all great in their own way."

"Engaging our young students, the next generation of leaders, is a key part of the Institute's mission," said school board chairman and regional director Edward Maratita Jr. "We work to empower youth with the skills such as art or writing to become engaged citizens who understand the connections between their lives and the lives of people around them or the world."

"Whether we win or not in the contest, the whole point is we learned to stay drug-free,"

said student body president Tyra Reese Calvo.

"It's about healthy choices," said 6th grade student Jeremy Atalig.

The contest, which kicked off on Oct. 1 and ran through Oct. 31, generated student interest in their drawings and essays.

In addition, the students would like to thank the people that pledged for their Red Ribbon Week 1 Mile Run/Walk fundraising. The money raised

will be used for their upcoming Youth For Youth Conference to be held in Guam.

The administration, students, faculty and staff, and board of directors would like to express their appreciation to the National Family Partnership, Pacific Regional Training Institute – Guam/Hawaii, Honolulu Federal Credit Union, Paul and Kendra Tanaka, Catherine Alia, Grace Kakesako, and Ford Kaneshiro. (ESFDB)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mr. Ed and Jeremy
Atalig run for a
cause during the
Red Ribbon Week
celebration.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-15-002

POWER SUPPLY RESOURCES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities to supply reliable, affordable energy from commercially proven electric generation resources for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from suitably qualified entities from which CUC intends to select one, or more, proponent(s) to negotiate long-term power supply contracts that best fit CUC's power supply requirements. CUC's requirements for new power supply resources will be determined as part of its Integrated Resource Plan, which is currently underway. More information regarding the Integrated Resource Plan can be found at the CUC's website at <http://www.cucgov.org/integrated-resource-plan/>.

The RFP documents may be downloaded from the CUC website at <http://www.cucgov.org/power-supply-rfp/>. It is each proponent's responsibility to ensure they have received all RFP documents posted to this website. An updated checklist will be provided in early January, titled "RFP Document Receipt Checklist and Affirmation" prior to the submittal deadline. In order to reduce the cost to CUC of this procurement and in the interest of sustainable business practices, CUC will not be providing printed RFP materials; all RFP materials will be posted and distributed electronically.

Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, by filling out and submitting a Proponent Registration Form by 10:00 am December 15, 2014 in order to be considered. The Proponent Registration Form is posted to the website at <http://www.cucgov.org/power-supply-rfp/> and can be delivered in printed format or electronically via email to the CUC Procurement Contact for Power Supply RFP:

Manny B. Sablan, Jr.
Purchasing Officer
Address: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Third Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg.
P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP, 96950
Office Phone: (670) 236-4303
Email: manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

The deadline for proposal submittals is currently scheduled for January 20, 2015, although this date may be subject to change. Changes to the proposal schedule will be posted as addenda to the Request for Proposal documents.

One printed, hardcopy original and five copies of all proposal material and supporting documents (including the Technical Proposal requirements, the Cost Proposal requirements, and all supplementary data requested as part of Appendix A, Appendix B, and Appendix C) must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 15-002, Power Supply Resources" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 20, 2015. One electronic copy of the Technical Proposal and related documents, and one electronic copy of the Cost Proposal and related documents, in Adobe pdf format on a DVD, also must be delivered with the other printed, hardcopy proposal materials.

Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of proponents' preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. Questions or requests for clarification will be considered only from registered proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than December 17, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email addressed to manny.sablan@cucgov.org. CUC will host a Pre-Proposal Conference and Webinar on December 4, 2014 to discuss the Request for Proposals and answer questions. Information regarding the Pre-Proposal Conference and Webinar will be provided to registered proponents.

Proponents shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proponents.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

Bordallo statement on resignation of Hagel

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo issued the following statement yesterday on the resignation of Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel: "Secretary Hagel has served the Department of Defense with distinction. He served during a difficult time of sequestration, a ramp down in Iraq and Afghanistan all while trying to deal with crises like the outbreak of Ebola

and the rise of ISIL. I appreciate Secretary Hagel's leadership in carrying out the President's rebalance strategy to the Asia-Pacific region, particularly his steadfast support of the Marine realignment to Guam and his work with Japan's Defense Minister Onodera to move forward with progress on the Futenma Replacement Facility. Under his leadership, DoD

finally submitted a master plan for the realignment of Marines to Guam, which was critical to addressing concerns raised by members in the Senate. I look forward to President Obama nominating Secretary Hagel's successor and hope that the Senate will act swiftly to ensure a smooth transition at the DoD. The DoD needs leadership at this critical time." (PR)

Young entrepreneurs sell interactive book

UNIDA, a Junior Achievement Company sponsored by Tan Holdings Corp. in Guam, is selling children's coloring storybooks. *Coco's Journey* documents the unexpected journey of Coco the Niyok (coconut). *Coco's Journey* is a fun and interactive way that promotes the island of Guam and teaches children about environmental stewardship, stranger danger, and the im-

portance of friendship. Each book costs \$5. Email UNIDA at unidaguam@gmail.com for more information or to place an order. There will be no shipping and handling fees for orders placed from Saipan.

Please feel free to contact us at any of our social media sites. Post on our Facebook page at UNIDA, tweet us at @unidaguam, or comment on our Instagram pictures at unidaguam.

Please like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram to support young entrepreneurs!

Please use our hashtag, #youneeda, on Instagram when you post a picture of you with a *Coco's Journey* coloring book for a chance to win free movie passes! In order to be eligible to win, you must like our Facebook page and follow us on Instagram. (PR)

Matson crew receives USCG public service award

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard presented a Meritorious Public Service award Monday at the Matson terminal to crewmembers from the Matson ship *Manukai* for the rescue of three men from a sailboat caught in Hurricane Julio 414 miles northeast of Oahu on Aug. 10, 2014.

Rear Adm. Cari Thomas, commander of the 14th Coast Guard District, presented the award to the captain of the *Manukai*, John Bloomingdale, 3rd Mate Justin Moore and 2nd Engineer Josef Eggert.

Ben Nealy, Lee Nealy and Mike Vanway were rescued after the 42-foot sailboat *Walkabout* was dismantled and flooded while en route from Stockton, Calif., to Honolulu.

After hours of coordination

between the sailing vessel and the Coast Guard, the container ship crew successfully shot a line to the sailboat and pulled the boat and crew alongside the *Manukai*. The passengers disembarked the sailboat and climbed a 30-foot ladder draped over the side of *Manukai*'s hull. On-scene conditions during the rescue were winds of 20 mph with 13-foot seas.

The Coast Guard Meritorious Public Service award is the second highest award presented by the Coast Guard to recognize recipients for unusual courage in advancing a Coast Guard mission, substantial contribution to the Coast Guard that produced tangible results and specific individual accomplishments that provide unique benefits to the public. **(USCG)**



▲ **U.S. COAST GUARD/PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS TARA MOLLE**
Rear Adm. Cari Thomas, 14th Coast Guard District commander, presents a Meritorious Public Service award to Capt. John Bloomingdale, 3rd Mate Justin Moore and 2nd Engineer Josef Eggert of the motor vessel *Manukai* at the Matson terminal on Sand Island in Honolulu, Nov. 24, 2014.

MCS student film to air on KSPN tonight

KSPN will air Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club's 2013 film, *Saipan Pride Rice*, on Channel 2 tonight at 6:30pm, right after the KSPN2 News broadcast. Directed by 2014 AlumKnight Dominic Travilla, *Saipan Pride Rice* is a cultural comedy in which a Chamorro boy and a Filipino girl work with their families to get married.

The show stars Mount Carmel seniors William Camacho and Savannah Lyn Delos Santos as Goru Boy and Mahal, respectively. Since their parents have passed away, Goru Boy and Mahal bring their grandparents together to break the news of their engagement and plan the wedding. Trouble ensues when their grandparents clash over where the wedding will be held, which unleashes other conflicts between cultures, generations, and genders.

For his part, Camacho was very pleased with the way the

show turned out. "It was my first time being in a Theatre Club production, so I was nervous. But in the end, it turned out very well."

It was also the first time Delos Santos had performed in a MCS Theatre Club production. "It was hard work but worth it. Everybody did a great job on the show."

The film also includes Itchakomi Romolor and Peter Babauta as Goru Boy's paternal grandparents, Brianna Hunter and Victor Cabrera as Goru Boy's maternal grandparents, Andrea Manese and Jaime "Sam" Soledad as Mahal's paternal grandparents, and Jackie Doctor and Michael Ortizo as Mahal's maternal grandparents.

The show's airing is made possible by the generous support of Flame Tree TV and Production Company and its president and managing director, Chris Nelson. **(MCS)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
File photo shows a scene from the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club's 2013 film, *Saipan Pride Rice*. The film will air on Channel 2 tonight at 6:30pm.



◀ **U.S. COAST GUARD/PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS TARA MOLLE**
A Coast Guard Meritorious Public Service award for the crewmembers of the motor vessel *Manukai* is shown at the Matson terminal on Sand Island in Honolulu, Nov. 24, 2014.



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
Caller Box 10007, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Office,
Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315



NOTICE OF APPLICATION
November 26, 2014

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL	08/29/2014 SLRm-2014-X-040	Scuba Dive Operation	Lagoon & Reef	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (09/22/2014)*
2. Saipan Crew Boats	09/11/2014 SPIm-2014-X-043	Dry Dock	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (09/12/2014)*
3. CNMI Water Task Force	09/12/2014 SPIm-2014-X-044	Waterline Distribution	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (09/22/2014)*
4. Aqua Resort Club	09/10/2014 SMS-87-X-110(A)	Renovation	Achugao	Amendment	Approved (09/17/2014)*
5. Pacific Island Club	09/14/2014 SMS-91-X-25 (A)	Extension of BBQ Pavilion	San Antonio	Amendment	Approved (09/17/2014)*
6. HPIL	09/15/2014 SSm-2014-X-045	Land Clearing	San Antonio	Shoreline APC	Approved (09/17/2014)*
7. Dept of Public Works	09/18/2014 SSm-2014-X-046	Route 302 Road Project	Naftan	Shoreline APC	Under Review
8. Joeten Motors	09/23/2014 SSm-2014-X-047	Showroom Building	San Jose	Shoreline APC	Approved (10/09/2014)*
9. Geotesting Inc.	10/08/2014 TSM-2014-X-048	Soil Testing	Tinian	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (10/10/2014)*
10. YM Micronesia	10/24/2014 S/TRLRSm-2014-X-049	Photographic Activities	Saipan, Tinian Rota & Managaha	Shoreline APC	Approved (10/21/2014)*
11. Geotesting Inc.	10/23/2014 SSm-2014-X-050	Geo Testing	Garapan	Shoreline APC	Approved (20/27/2014)*
12. Man Bao Corp	10/24/2014 SSm-2014-X-051	Two Storey Building	Gualo Rai	Shoreline APC	Under Review
13. HPIL Limited	11/03/2014 SSm-2014-X-052	Geo Testing	San Antonio	Shoreline APC	Approved (11/18/2014)*
14. BECQ	11/05/2014 SLRm-2014-X-053	Managaha Clean up	Managaha Is.	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (11/14/2014)*
15. CUC	11/07/2014 SMS-2014-X-054	Geo Thermal	Gualo Rai	Major Siting	Under Review
16. Saipan Sea Ventures	11/13/2014 SPIm-2014-X-055	Dry Dock	South Seaplane	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (11/13/2014)*
17. Saipan Sunset Cruise	11/07/2014 SPIm-2014-X-056	Dry Dock	South Seaplane	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (11/17/2014)*
18. Good Day Coordinating	11/19/2014 SSm-2014-X-057	Photographic Activities	Shoreline	Shoreline APC	Approved (11/20/214)*

Require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

GCA congratulates its November winners

The administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy would like to extend their congratulations to the following winners and everyone who participated in the second Primary Grades Forensic Conference and Thespians competitions held at Grace Christian Academy on Nov. 8, 2014, as well as the NJSDA and NSDA competitions held at Mount Carmel School on Nov. 21, 2014, respectively. These competitions encouraged public and private school students to participate in and become proficient in the forensic and theater arts: music, reading, public speaking, interpretations, and debate.



Grace Christian Academy's November PGFC winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

K-2 DIVISION

Dramatic Interpretation A
Moirra Grace Ernest, 1st place
Humorous Interpretation A
Moirra Grace Ernest, 1st place
Tae Hee Kim, 5th place
Duo Interpretation B
Rafael Ablog, 1st place
Aiden Gerard Camacho, 1st place
Readers Forum Masters A
Julianna Rue Magtalas, 1st place
Nestor Ablog Jr., 2nd place
William Matthew Cano, 3rd place
Readers Forum Masters B
Tae Hee Kim, 1st place
Ethan John Quichocho, 2nd place
Manuel Antonio Magboo, 5th place
Impromptu Speaking A
Rafael Busby, 4th place
William Matthew Cano, 5th place
Impromptu Speaking B
Maria Sofia Gomez, 2nd place
Briston James Jones, 3rd place
Ayden Sean Yumul, 5th place
Choral Speaking B

Ella Hall, 5th place
Patricia Matsumoto, 5th place
Clarisse Angelique Marzan, 5th place

3-5 DIVISION

Impromptu Speaking A
Deancey Adriel Chua, 3rd place
Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 4th place
Impromptu Speaking B
Soleil Lamar 1st place
Maria Elizabeth Bonto, 5th place
Readers Forum Masters A
Steven Adriatico, 2nd place
Readers Forum A
Juruel Neilan Magtalas, 4th place
Readers Forum B
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 2nd place
Dramatic Interpretation A
Steven Adriatico, 3rd place
Humorous Interpretation A
Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 3rd place
Brandie Matsumoto, 5th place
Duo Interpretation A
Soleil Lamar, 5th place
Brandie Matsumoto, 5th place

Teacher/Coach

K-5: Sheryl Prieto
First Grade: Leah Garfil
Second Grade: Miriam Dilse
Third Grade: Maria Gerecke
Fourth Grade: Melanie Hickerson
PGFC Coordinator: Esther Manzano

NJSDA (NATIONAL JUNIOR SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION) (6TH-8TH GRADE)

Lincoln Douglas Debate
Hyun In Harry Noh, 1st place
Impromptu Speech A
Tae Yong Kim, 1st place
Impromptu Speech D
Melody Woo, 1st place
Impromptu Speech E
Hyun In Harry Noh, 1st place
Poetry Reading Masters A
Tae Yong Kim, 4th place
Poetry Reading Masters B
Esther Kim, 2nd place
Prose Reading Masters B
Esther Kim, 3rd place
Prose Reading Masters C
Melody Woo, 2nd place
Prose Reading A

Christy Lee, 5th place
Prose Reading B
Jaiden Kayla Sabugo, 3rd place
Gayeon Kim, 4th place
Duo Interpretation A
Christy Lee, 3rd place
Heather Angel Pangilinan, 3rd place
Duo Interpretation B
You Sun Lee, 5th place
Esther Kim, 5th place
Extemporaneous Speech A
Hyun In Noh, 2nd place

NSDA (NATIONAL SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION) (9TH-12TH GRADE)

Expository Speech
Minna Ito, 1st place

Original Oratory
Minna Ito, 2nd place



Grace Christian Academy's Junior Thespians November 2014 winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Prose Reading Masters B
Minna Ito, 2nd place
Poetry Reading Masters B
Yujin Lee, 1st place
Impromptu Speech B
Dianne Arnold, 2nd place
Dramatic Interpretation A
Yujin Lee, 1st place
Duo Interpretation A
Dianne Arnold, 3rd place
Joo Young Kim, 3rd place

JUNIOR THESPIANS (6TH-8TH GRADE)

Monologue
Melody Woo, 1st place
Solo Musical Theatre
Miriella Dilse, 3rd place

THESPIANS/NJSDA/NSDA Coordinator: Lindsey Thompson

Guam private hospital won't open until '15

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Bogged down by construction delays, Guam's first private hospital is unable to open next month as previously planned.

The Guam Regional Medical City issued a statement saying it "anticipates a delay in the opening of its new state-of-the-art hospital until early next year."

The hospital's management attributed a statement to construction contractor dck Pacific project director Don Hergenreder that "additional time is necessary to complete construction while ensuring quality and safety."

"The GRMC/dck team remains committed to the com-

pletion of the hospital using the highest standards," said Margaret Bengzon, the hospital's chief executive officer. "We will deliver a first-class facility and world-class care to the people of Guam upon our opening."

Hospital chief operating officer Gloria Long said hospital management will take advantage of the next few months to train staff and refine hospital policies and procedures.

"This will ensure that we will be ready to provide the highest quality care for our patients, once we are fully operational," Long said.

While waiting for the new hospital to open, GMRC opened

a clinic for its specialists to start seeing outpatient customers.

The clinic opened in September with physician specialists in heart conditions, cancer care, orthopedic surgery, urology, brain-related illnesses, illnesses affecting newborns and wound care.

The clinic is in the former Social Security office on Harmon Loop Road.

The new hospital also has been waiting for word on its tax breaks application. The hospital project's investors, primarily Philippine-based The Medical City, was expecting tax breaks to encourage its investment in Guam.

Air Force working to open last 7 jobs to women

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (AP)—The Air Force's top boss said Monday she hopes to make all jobs in the service open to qualified women in the next year and a half.

Seven jobs in the service are closed to women, Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James told reporters during a visit to Hawaii on Monday.

James said the Air Force is working on establishing gender-neutral standards for the positions and opening them to whoever is qualified.

"That is to say, whatever the standard is, it would be the same

for men and women," she said.

An April 2013 Air Force memo says there were 4,600 people in the seven jobs, which include combat rescue officer and enlisted combat controller.

In January 2013, then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta lifted a ban on women in special operations and long-range reconnaissance units and told the armed forces to come up with detailed plans to open closed jobs.

The Air Force already has more jobs open to women than any of the services, James said. Most jobs closed to women are in the Army.

James, who became secretary in December 2013, said she also wants to boost the Air Force's retention of women, noting women at mid-career leave the service at twice the rate of their male counterparts.

"So we need to bore down and figure out why that is happening and how we can turn that around," James said.

James stopped in Hawaii as part of an 11-day tour of Air Force bases in the Asia-Pacific region. She's expected to go to Guam, Japan, South Korea and Alaska. It's her first trip to the region since becoming head of the Air Force.



Grace Christian Academy's November NJSDA winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Grace Christian Academy's NSDA November winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Wish granted: Same day delivery for the holidays

NEW YORK (AP)—A procrastinator's holiday wish come true: Presents ordered at the last minute can now show up under the Christmas tree that same day.

Amazon, Target and Macy's and other retailers are offering speedier delivery, including overnight and same-day options that will continue even past the holidays.

The focus on faster shipping is one way retailers are catering to shoppers who've become increasingly finicky and impatient. Since the recession, it's not enough to get lower prices; they want the deepest discounts. And when it comes to ordering online,



In this Nov. 11, 2010 file photo, Ricardo Sandoval sorts packages at an Amazon.com fulfillment center, in Phoenix.

orders need to be shipped fast.

"I'll pay extra to get some-

thing right away," says Wendy Connors, a 47-year-old mother

of three who lives in Menlo Park, California.

Quick delivery is important for retailers as they head into the winter holiday shopping season, a time when they can make up to 40 percent of their annual sales. U.S. shoppers are expected to spend \$61 billion online in November and December, according to research firm comScore.

Retailers don't want to over-promise on shipping offers. They can't afford a repeat last year when UPS and FedEx failed to deliver some packages by Christmas due to a combination of poor weather and overloaded systems,

causing angry customers. Neither of the top two deliverers said how many packages were delayed, but noted it was a small share of overall holiday shipments.

Forrester Research analyst Sucharita Mulpuru fears that the industry could be ill-prepared for the influx of online ordering again this year. She points out that the growth UPS and FedEx are forecasting this season is below growth estimates for online spending by the retail industry.

UPS forecasts it will deliver 585 million packages in December, an 11 percent increase over 2013, and FedEx expects to deliver 290 million packages, an 8.8

percent increase from last year. But research firm ComScore expects online spending will grow 16 percent to \$61 billion.

It's not a direct apples-to-apples comparison, Mulpuru concedes, but the difference in estimated percentage growth could spell trouble for shippers and retailers this holiday.

"I don't know if there's enough bandwidth ... to accommodate full demand," she says.

Retailers are hoping that speedier delivery options will help spread out shipments throughout the season so that there's not a big crunch toward the end like there was last year.

Do you really need to break the bank to get a decent cell phone?

NEW YORK (AP)—It might seem as though everyone has an iPhone or Galaxy smartphone. But many customers are eschewing the best cameras and screens—and their top-end price tags—and choosing models that can get the job done at less than a third of the cost.

Sales of high-end Samsung and Apple phones remain robust, but demand for budget phones is growing. About a third of the smartphones sold in the U.S. between July and September cost less than \$200, up from 18 percent a year ago, according to tech research firm IDC. A top-end phone costs \$600 to \$700 at full price, before the subsidies some phone companies offer in exchange for committing to two-year service contracts.

No longer are these cheap smartphones mostly no-frills devices with small screens and slow processors, says Ramon T. Llamas, a research manager for phones at IDC. As the costs of parts drop, phone manufacturers are able to outfit less-expensive models with advanced features once limited to high-end devices.

These phones lack the latest innovations, such as fingerprint security sensors and heart-rate monitors. They aren't as fast, and their cameras aren't as sharp. But the technology is more than adequate for those who just want to check email, look up sports scores and play video. Many cheaper phones now even offer the fastest wireless speeds on 4G LTE cellular networks, notes Jeff Bradley, senior vice president for devices at AT&T.

"There's a certain status to carrying an iPhone or Samsung Galaxy, as an example, but there are also people who say, 'I want a good, reliable phone, but I'm not willing to spend as much money on that,'" says David Owens, a senior vice president at wireless carrier Sprint Corp.

Joe Liggio, 16, a high school student in New York, says many of his friends have iPhones or Samsung phones, but he's never felt envy carrying his \$180

Moto G from Motorola. He says it does everything he needs well, including texting, taking pictures, playing music and accessing the Internet.

Besides the Moto G, Motorola has a \$129 Moto E as an alternative to its \$500 Moto X. Microsoft Corp.'s Lumia 635 costs \$179 or less, compared with the \$550 its flagship Lumia Icon retailed for at launch. The Nubia 5S Mini, ZTE Corp.'s most expensive phone, retails for \$280 contract-free. ZTE has a few models for just \$100.

The cheaper phone does mean smaller profit. According to IHS iSuppli, ZTE makes about \$130 per Nubia device sold, compared with several hundred for Apple and Samsung devices before marketing and administrative costs. But targeting the budget crowd has made ZTE the No. 5 smartphone vendor in the U.S., according to IDC.

Wait, you say, \$200 is "cheap?" Many consumers in the United States see a \$200 price tag on a typical high-end phone and think that is what the phone costs. But the phone company actually subsidizes about \$450 or so of the total cost and recovers that by charging higher service fees for voice, text and data over the life of a two-year contract. Some carriers are now pushing customers to pay a phone's full price in installments, such as AT&T's Next plan, but \$27 a month over two years doesn't sound as bad as \$650 all at once.

So who are the main buyers of these budget phones? The highest demand has been from those with prepaid wireless plans, which are popular among first-time smartphone buyers as well as customers who have poor credit and have to pay the full price of phones up front. But even that is changing.

Doug Kaufman, Sprint's director of device strategy, says that 90 percent of phone sales with traditional contract plans had been for high-end devices, including year-old Apple and Samsung models.



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November 27, 2014

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Nation

Thousands rally across US after Ferguson decision

By SADIE GURMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands of people rallied late Monday in U.S. cities including Los Angeles and New York to passionately but peacefully protest a grand jury's decision not to indict a white police officer who killed a black 18-year-old in Ferguson, Missouri.

They led marches, waved signs and shouted chants of "hands up, don't shoot," the refrain that has become a rallying cry in protests over police killings across the country.

The most disruptive demonstrations were in St. Louis and Oakland, California, where protesters flooded the lanes of freeways, milling about stopped cars with their hands raised in the air.

Activists had been planning to protest even before the nighttime announcement that Officer Darren Wilson will not be charged in the shooting death of Michael Brown.

The racially charged case in Ferguson has inflamed tensions and reignited debates over police-community relations even in cities hundreds of miles from the predominantly black St. Louis suburb. For many staging protests Monday, the shooting was personal, calling to mind other galvanizing encounters with local law enforcement.

Police departments in sev-



A police car is set on fire after a group of protesters vandalize the vehicle after the announcement of the grand jury decision Monday, Nov. 24, 2014, in Ferguson, Mo.

eral major cities braced for large demonstrations with the potential for the kind of violence that marred nightly protests in Ferguson after Brown's killing. Demonstrators there vandalized police cars and buildings, hugged barricades and taunted officers with expletives Monday night while police fired smoke canisters and tear gas. Gunshots were heard on the streets and fires raged.

But police elsewhere reported that gatherings were mostly

peaceful following Monday's announcement.

As the night wore on, dozens of protesters in Oakland got around police and blocked traffic on Interstate 580. Officers in cars and on motorcycles were able to corral the protesters and cleared the highway in one area, but another group soon entered the traffic lanes a short distance away. Police didn't immediately report any arrests.

A diverse crowd of several hundred protesters marched and

chanted in St. Louis not far from the site of another police shooting, shutting down Interstate 44 for a time. A few cars got stuck in the midst of the protesters, who appeared to be leaving the vehicles alone. They chanted "hands up, don't shoot" and "black lives matter."

"There's clearly a license for violence against minorities, specifically blacks," said Mike Arnold, 38, a teacher. "It happens all the time. Something's got to be done about it. Hopefully this

will be a turning point."

In Seattle, marching demonstrators stopped periodically to sit or lie down in city intersections, blocking traffic before moving on, as dozens of police officers watched.

Groups ranging from a few dozen to a few hundred people also gathered in Chicago, Salt Lake City, and Washington, D.C., where people held up signs and chanted "justice for Michael Brown" outside the White House.

"Mike Brown is an emblem (of a movement). This country is at its boiling point," said Ethan Jury, a protester in Philadelphia, where hundreds marched downtown with a contingent of police nearby. "How many people need to die? How many black people need to die?"

In New York, the family of Eric Garner, a Staten Island man killed by a police chokehold earlier this year, joined the Rev. Al Sharpton at a speech in Harlem lamenting the grand jury's decision. Later, several hundred people who had gathered in Manhattan's Union Square marched peacefully to Times Square.

In Los Angeles, which was rocked by riots in 1992 after the acquittal of police officers in the videotaped beating of Rodney King, police officers were told to remain on duty until released by their supervisors.

Ferguson timeline

- AUGUST**
 - Aug. 9:** Michael Brown, 18, is shot by police. Police say he was reaching for a gun, witnesses say his hands were up. Soon after, protests begin.
- SEPTEMBER**
 - Aug. 15:** Ferguson police identify Officer Darren Wilson as the shooter. Information is released linking Brown to a robbery.
- OCTOBER**
 - Sept. 11:** A grand jury begins weighing evidence against Officer Wilson.
 - Oct. 23:** According to leaked testimony, a close range gunshot wound on Brown and blood on Wilson's gun imply that a struggle took place.
- NOVEMBER**
 - Nov. 17:** Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon declares a state of emergency, activating the National Guard in anticipation of the grand jury's decision.
 - Nov. 24:** The grand jury decides not to press charges against Darren Wilson, prompting protests across the country.

Source: Chicago Tribune, Reuters
Graphic: Tyler Davis, TNS

Pentagon chief Hagel stepping down under pressure

WASHINGTON (AP)—Under pressure from President Barack Obama, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel submitted his resignation Monday amid White House concerns about his effectiveness and broader criticism from outside about the administration's Middle East crisis management.

The president said he and Hagel had determined it was an "appropriate time for him to complete his service."

Hagel, a former Republican senator, never broke through the White House's notably insular national security team. Officials privately griped about his ability to publicly communicate administration policy and more recently questioned whether he had the capacity to oversee new military campaigns against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

Hagel is the first high-level

member of Obama's national security team to step down in the wake of both a disastrous midterm election for the president's party and persistent criticism about the administration's policies in the Middle East and elsewhere. It's unclear whether Hagel's forced resignation signals the start of a broader shake-up of the president's team; White House officials said it could be more departures.

Among the leading contenders to replace Hagel is Michele Flournoy, who served as the Pentagon's policy chief for the first three years of Obama's presidency. Flournoy, who would be the first woman to head the Pentagon, is now chief executive officer of the Center for

a New American Security, a think tank that she co-founded.

Flournoy is said to be interested in the top Pentagon job but seeking assurances from the White House that she would be given greater latitude in policymaking than Hagel. Flournoy is also considered a possible defense secretary for Hillary Rodham Clinton if Clinton should win the presidency in 2016.

Others mentioned as possible replacements include Ashton Carter, the former deputy defense secretary, and Robert Work, who currently holds that post.

With Hagel's departure, Obama will be the first president since Harry Truman to have four defense secretaries. Hagel's two predecessors, Rob-



Hagel

ert Gates and Leon Panetta, complained after leaving the administration about White House micromanagement and political interference in policy decisions.

Rep. Buck McKeon, chair of the House Armed Services Committee, suggested Obama consider his own role in his administration's foreign policy struggles rather than seeking another changeover at the Pentagon.

"When the president goes through three secretaries, he should ask, 'Is it them or is it me?'" said McKeon, R-Calif.

Hagel has had his own frustrations with the White House. In recent weeks, he sent a letter to National Security Adviser Susan Rice in which he said Obama needed to articulate a clearer view of the administration's approach to dealing with Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Police: Video of officer shooting boy is 'clear'

CLEVELAND (AP)—A Cleveland officer was less than 10 feet away when he fatally shot a 12-year-old boy carrying a pellet gun near a playground, and video of the shooting is clear about what happened, police said Monday.

The boy was confronted Saturday by officers responding to a 911 call about a male who appeared to be pulling a gun in and out of his pants.

The 911 caller said the gun was "probably fake," then added, "I don't know if it's real or not." Deputy Chief Edward Tomba said Monday that he didn't know whether a dispatcher shared that information with responding officers.

The president of the Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association has said the officers weren't told the caller thought the gun might be fake.

Police say Tamir Rice, who died Sunday, had an "airsoft" gun that appeared indistinguishable from a real firearm. Airsoft guns fire spherical plastic pellets and have orange tips to show they aren't real firearms, but police said the one the boy had didn't have the bright safety indicator.

Authorities said the boy was told to raise his hands and was shot when he pulled the pellet

gun from his waistband, though he hadn't pointed it at police or made verbal threats.

"Our officers at times are required to make critical decisions in a split second," Chief Calvin Williams said. "Unfortunately this is one of those times."

Tomba said surveillance video of the shooting is "very clear" about what occurred, but he wouldn't discuss details of what it shows.

People representing the boy's family viewed the video Monday, but police didn't release it publicly because it is considered evidence and because they want to be sensitive to the family, the community and the officer, who is distraught, officials said.

The shooting has led to an investigation of the officer's use of force. It also contributed to a state lawmaker's plan to propose legislation requiring all BB guns, air rifles and airsoft guns sold in Ohio to be brightly colored or have prominent fluorescent strips.

Once the investigation is complete, the case will be presented to a grand jury to decide whether any criminal charges should be brought, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty said.

Autopsy begins on Kansas woman found raped, burned

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—An autopsy has begun on a Kansas woman who died this weekend, days after she was sexually assaulted and set on fire in a Wichita park, a county official said Monday.

Sedgwick County spokeswoman Brittany Clappitt said coroner's office officials were investigating, but it wasn't clear when the examination would be complete.

Family members held a memorial for Letitia "Tish" Davis on Sunday evening in Wichita's Fairmount Park, where she was found Nov. 14 with burns on more than half her body and cuts on her head.

They remembered her as a loving mother of four. Marcie Bell called Davis "truly a beautiful person."

"This is my way to tell her

she will never be forgotten," Bell told The Wichita Eagle.

Cornell McNeal has been jailed and charged with attempted murder and rape. He doesn't yet have a lawyer, according to court records and the Sedgwick County Public Defender's office.

Police Lt. James Espinoza told The Eagle that charges against McNeal would be amended after Davis died Sat-

urday. He hasn't returned messages from The Associated Press seeking comment. A capital charge could make McNeal eligible for the death penalty.

District attorney's office spokeswoman Georgia Cole said Monday that prosecutors would determine "what charges are appropriate based on new evidence," which would include the results of the autopsy.

Asia

China defends land reclamation



In this July 15, 2012 file photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, a Chinese fishing vessel sails by Fiery Cross Reef, background, also known as Yongshu Reef by the Chinese, of the Spratly Islands in South China Sea.

BEIJING (AP)—Defying a U.S. call to halt the project, China defended its land reclamation in the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea on Monday, saying the work is for public service use, although a London-based security group says the new island could host a military airfield to intimidate neighbors.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the construction on some reefs in the archipelago was to enable Chinese citizens working there to “better perform international obligations in terms of search, rescue and other public services.”

In a recent report, IHS Jane's said satellite images taken in August and November showed that Chinese dredgers had created a land mass almost the entire length of Fiery Cross Reef, which was previously under water. The security group said it is China's largest construction project in the island chain.

IHS Jane's said the new island—at least 3,000 meters

(9,840 feet) long—could be China's first military airstrip in the Spratly Islands and might be aimed at helping Beijing impose its sovereignty claims over neighboring countries that also claim the territory.

“This facility appears purpose-built to coerce other claimants into relinquishing their claims and possessions, or at least provide China with a much stronger negotiating position if talks over the dispute were ever held,” the report said.

Tensions have been rising as Beijing has grown more assertive about its claim over the resource-rich South China Sea, which is also crisscrossed by shipping routes. Its deployment of an oil rig near the Paracel Islands triggered a bitter standoff with Vietnam, where a wave of anti-China riots broke out in May, killing at least one Chinese worker.

In August, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry proposed that all countries with competing claims halt any provocative ac-

tions, such as land reclamation, but China rejected the suggestion and said the tensions were being overblown.

On Monday, State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke urged China and other states in the region to be transparent about their activities in disputed areas of the South China Sea. He stopped short of criticizing China for its new construction but said such action could “complicate or escalate the situation.”

“It's the United States' point of view that avoiding certain actions during the negotiating process would create a conducive and positive environment,” Rathke told reporters Monday.

Over the weekend, U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Jeffrey Pool urged China to cease the land reclamation project and engage in diplomatic talks.

Hua told a regular news briefing on Monday that no country has “a right to make irresponsible remarks” about the reclamation.

seized power in a May 22 coup. Thailand's lese majeste law is considered the harshest in the world. The sentence against Nut Rungwong was cut in half because he pleaded guilty to the charge, according to an official in the army's Judge Advocate General's department who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Afghan bombings kill 2 NATO troops, 6 civilians

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Bombings across Afghanistan killed two NATO troops and six civilians Monday, authorities said, as the death toll in the country's deadliest insurgent attack this year rose to at least 50. The attacks, including Sunday's mass killing by a suicide bomber at a volleyball tournament, come amid a renewed Taliban offensive as foreign troops begin to withdraw from the country. In a statement, NATO said the troops had been killed by an “enemy attack in eastern Afghanistan.” It did not identify the nationalities of dead, as the coalition waits for their home countries to make the announcement. A spokesman for Kabul's police chief, Hashmat Stanekzai, said the troops were killed when a bomb attached to a bicycle exploded near a foreign military convoy in the eastern part of the capital Monday morning. He said the blast wounded one Afghan civilian.

World

US nuclear deal with Iran stumbles

VIENNA (AP)—A yearlong effort to seal a nuclear deal with Iran fizzled Monday, leaving the U.S. and its allies little choice but to declare a seven-month extension in hopes that a new deadline will be enough to achieve what a decade of negotiations have failed to do—limit Tehran's ability to make a nuclear weapon.

Pushback from critics in Congress followed almost immediately, with powerful Republicans saying that Iran is merely trying to buy time.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and other Western foreign ministers defended the add-on time as the best way forward. “We would be fools to walk away,” Kerry declared.

But a week of tough maneuvering appeared to have achieved little more than agreement to keep on talking. Negotiators will now strive to nail down by March 1 what

Iran and the six world powers it is negotiating with must do, and by when. A final agreement is meant to follow four months later.

Members of the new Republican-controlled Congress to be sworn in early next year threatened to impose additional sanctions on Iran and may well have enough votes to overturn an expected veto by President Barack Obama.

“The one thing the Iranians didn't have was time, and now they have 219 days,” lamented Sen. Mark Kirk, an Illinois Republican whose work with Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey on oil sanctions helped cripple Iran's economy and drive it to the negotiating table.

Kirk pledged to come forward with a new bipartisan sanctions package after the Republican takeover of the Senate. Menendez suggested

similar action, saying he'd work “to ensure that Iran comprehends that we will not ever permit it to become a threshold nuclear state.”

The U.S. administration strongly opposes additional sanctions because it fears it will push Tehran away from the table.

Monday's decision already appeared to benefit Iran. Its nuclear program is left frozen but intact, without any of the cuts sought by the U.S. And while the negotiations continue, so will monthly dole-outs of \$700 million in frozen funds that began under the temporary nuclear deal agreed on late last year that led to the present talks.

Kerry called for patience, saying he hoped congressional skeptics would “come to see the wisdom” of giving talks an extra “few months to be able to proceed without sending messages that might be misinterpreted.”

Russia gets greater control over Black Sea region

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia tightened its control Monday over Georgia's breakaway province of Abkhazia with a new treaty envisaging closer military and economic ties with the lush sliver of land along the Black Sea.

The move drew outrage and cries of “annexation” in Georgia and sent a chill through those in Abkhazia who fear that wealthy Russians will snap up their precious coastline. It also raised further suspicions in the West about Russian President Vladimir Putin's territorial aspirations after his annexation of Ukraine's Black Sea peninsula of Crimea in March.

Under the treaty signed by Putin and Abkhazia's leader in the nearby Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russian and Abkhazian forces in the territory will turn into a joint force led by a Russian commander.

Putin said Moscow will also double its subsidies to Abkhazia to about 9.3 billion rubles

(over \$200 million) next year.

“I'm sure that cooperation, unity and strategic partnership between Russia and Abkhazia will continue to strengthen,” he said.

“Ties with Russia offer us full security guarantees and broad opportunities for socioeconomic development,” Abkhazian President Raul Khadzhimba said.

Russian troops have been deployed in Abkhazia for more than two decades since the region of 240,000 people broke away from Georgia in a separatist war in the early 1990s. Still, Monday's agreement reflected a clear attempt by Moscow to further expand its presence and came only after a change of leadership in the territory.

Coming amid a chill in Russia-West ties over the Ukrainian crisis, the deal raised concern about Moscow's plans. The Black Sea region has always been important for Putin,

who justified the annexation of Crimea by saying it would guarantee that NATO warships would never be welcome on the peninsula, the home base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet.

NATO's secretary-general condemned the treaty, stressing that the alliance supports Georgia's sovereignty. He also called on Russia to reverse its recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, another breakaway province, as independent states.

“This so-called treaty does not contribute to a peaceful and lasting settlement of the situation in Georgia,” Jens Stoltenberg said. “On the contrary, it violates Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and blatantly contradicts the principles of international law, OSCE principles and Russia's international commitments.”

The U.S. also said it wouldn't recognize Russia's move and expressed continued support for Georgia's sovereignty.

Erdogan: Women are not equal to men

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan set off a new controversy on Monday, declaring that women are not equal to men and accusing feminists of not understanding the special status that Islam attributes to mothers.

Addressing a meeting in Istanbul on women and justice, Erdogan said men and women are created differently, that women cannot be expected to undertake the same work as men, and that mothers enjoy a high position that only they can reach.

“You cannot put women and men on an equal footing,” Erdogan said. “It is against nature. They were created differ-

ently. Their nature is different. Their constitution is different.”

Erdogan added: “Motherhood is the highest position ... You cannot explain this to feminists. They don't accept motherhood. They have no such concern.”

Lawyer and women's rights activist Hulya Gulbahar said Erdogan's comments were in violation of Turkey's constitution, Turkish laws and international conventions on gender equality and didn't help efforts to stem high incidences of violence against women in Turkey.

“Such comments by state officials which disregard equality between men and women play

an important role in the rise of violence against women,” Gulbahar said. “Such comments aim to make women's presence in public life—from politics to arts, from science to sports—debatable.”

Erdogan, a devout Muslim, often courts controversy with divisive public comments. He has previously angered women's groups by stating that women should bear at least three children and by attempting to outlaw abortion and adultery.

He raised eyebrows this month by declaring that Muslims had discovered the Americas before Christopher Columbus.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Filipino troops kill 5 Abu Sayyaf gunmen in clash

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops killed at least five Abu Sayyaf gunmen and seized their camp in a clash in an ongoing offensive in the south, a military spokeswoman said Monday. Army troops and marines were on their way to arrest an Abu Sayyaf commander on Sunday when an undetermined number of militants opened fire at them, sparking a clash in a village near Sumisip town in Basilan province, marine Capt. Maria Rowena Muyuela said. At least five Abu Sayyaf militants were killed in the fighting, Muyuela said, citing accounts from villagers. There were no military casualties. Government troops later seized the militants' camp which had 10 huts, trenches and foxholes that could accommodate about 50 militants, Muyuela said. They also found a shotgun, ammunition and rebel documents.

Thai editor sentenced to jail for defaming king

BANGKOK (AP)—A military court in junta-ruled Thailand sentenced a Web editor to 4 1/2 years in jail Monday for publishing an article five years ago that it said defamed the nation's king. The punishment is the latest manifestation of an intensified crackdown on alleged criticism of the monarchy that has been waged by authorities since the army

Good Housekeeping

Don't let savings go down the drain

By **ALAN J. HEAVENS**
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Hauling water in a five-gallon container a couple of hundred yards from communal spigot to campsite has reinforced my tendency to conserve. You, no doubt, have reasons of your own.

Here are water-saving tips, compiled from a variety of sources:

- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth. You'll save three gallons per brush.
- Running only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher can save 75 to 200 gallons per week.
- It takes 30 to 40 gallons of water to fill a bathtub, five to 10 gallons of water per minute to take a shower.
- If you keep a bottle of wa-

ter in the refrigerator, you won't have to run the tap until the water gets cold enough to drink. That saves 200 to 300 gallons per week.

■ A pin-size hole in a water pipe loses more than 2,000 gallons a day.

■ To reduce water flow in toilets, install a plastic water bottle weighted down with pebbles in the tank, or switch to a low-flow toilet that cuts the water used per flush from five to 10 gallons to 1.6 gallons or less.

■ Installing a flow restrictor in the shower will cut water use by as much as two-thirds.

Setting things straight. Over Labor Day weekend, I ran a brief item in this space mentioning that September was Mold Awareness Month.

The item was based on a now-misplaced news release from a product manufacturer I must have considered a reliable source because I ran the item rather than deleting it without even opening it.

The e-mail said the month-long observance was sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency. It wasn't, a Chicago-area reader told me.

I always let experts Joe Ponsessa and Harris Gross answer my mold questions because I am not qualified to comment on complex science. I'm surprised they didn't call me on it.

Anyway, the EPA has confirmed that it didn't sponsor a Mold Awareness Month.

Sorry for any confusion that may have resulted.

Why should you care about the skilled trade shortage?

By **ANGIE HICKS**
ANGIE'S LIST

It's a fact that I'm not handy. When I need something done at home, I use the proven service providers I found on the list that bears my name.

I'm grateful for the skilled professionals who use their hands and their heads to solve our home maintenance and improvement challenges. Where would we be without them?

Unfortunately, we may be about to find out.

Statistics show, and anecdotal evidence from service companies confirms, that we're experiencing a shortage of skilled trade workers. And with fewer workers entering the workforce than are leaving, due to Baby Boomer-era retirements and other factors, the problem is likely to worsen.

This is especially true as the shortage corresponds with a significant number of unskilled homeowners. A Harris Poll we

commissioned this year found that almost 40 percent of younger homeowners admitted they've delayed home maintenance because they lack DIY ability.

My team recently researched a report that reveals what the shortage of skilled electricians means for consumers. Last year we examined the issue involving skilled trades as a whole, and found that service companies were having trouble hiring qualified workers.

The end result for consumers? Longer waits and higher prices for quality work by qualified plumbers, electricians, carpenters and other skilled tradesfolk.

This may seem like a problem none of us can solve. But I believe we can do more than we might initially assume.

First of all, let's agree not to take the trades for granted. Some observers and service company owners believe a general devaluing of skilled labor—a societal stigma, even—is one reason for the shortage.

Look around where you live. Do vocational education opportunities exist? Is that an issue you might get involved in? Do you have a skill set you could pass on to the next generation?

Perhaps you can encourage a young person, or someone making a career change, to consider the trades. Don't assume that working with one's hands pays less, or is less satisfying, than other work. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, electricians can expect a median pay of \$49,840 per year—43 percent higher than the national median across all jobs—with only a high school diploma required to become an apprentice.

A homeowner told us that she's willing to spend more for higher quality work by a provider who pays extra to keep good employees. "It's worth paying to have someone who knows what they're doing, and can do it right the first time. That saves you time, saves you money," she said. "It saves your sanity."

THIS IS A HAMMER

Danger: Kids, dogs coming to visit

By **SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA**
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q. I'm hosting the family over the holidays for the first time in my new home. But I'm a bit stressed as my siblings have kids and there will be a dog visiting. How can I make sure the kids don't get into my workshop or other danger areas?—Bill in Utica, N.Y.

A: The best way to keep them out of the workshop is to lock it up. But if that's not possible—say, it's in the garage or somewhere everyone accesses—then remove tools and small items and store them in a box they can't see through, placed high on a shelf. Ditto with any blades or gar-

den tools—move them out of reach and out of sight.

If you have a pool, make sure the winter cover is secure and lock any doors that access the pool. Again, if that's not possible, make sure the family knows what areas are off limits, and ask parents to keep their kids in sight.

There also are some danger areas inside the home, particularly for toddlers and pets. Move all chemicals and cleaning items out of common areas like the kitchen and laundry room, and store them on high shelves out of sight. Definitely don't store chemicals next to food or drinks.

Make sure items like bread, chips or other foods are stored off the floor so that the dog

can't get into them (eating people food isn't just unhealthy—dogs pigging out on lots of these items at once can suffer serious complications such as bloat).

Cover all heating registers with appropriate grates that little hands and paws can't get through.

If you're remodeling or working on an area of the house, clean up construction debris and tools, or close off the area.

This sounds like a lot of hustling around worrying about every possible thing that can go wrong, but it's good to have your house organized safely at all times, anyway. Look at this as an opportunity to get those garden tools put away the way you always wanted, and to organize your home-improvement items. You won't have to worry about it again until next year.

Life & Style

Britain wins 3 International Emmys

NEW YORK (AP)—Britain's Stephen Dillane and the Netherlands' Bianca Krijgsman won the top acting prizes Monday night at the 42nd International Emmy Awards in which the honors were spread among eight countries.

The highlight of the awards gala at the Hilton New York came when "Mad Men" stars Christina Hendricks and John Slattery presented the honorary International Emmy Founders Award to the show's creator and executive producer Matthew Weiner who's preparing the final episodes of the advertising agency saga to air in spring 2015.

British TV productions received three International Emmys at the ceremony hosted by British comedian Matt Lucas, creator of the comedy series "Little Britain."

Dillane, best known for portraying Stannis Baratheon in "Game of Thrones," won for his role as a veteran British detective in the Anglo-French crime drama "The Tunnel." Dillane's character teams with a female French detective to hunt down a seri-

al killer who left the bodies of a French politician and British prostitute in the middle of the Channel Tunnel.

The British conspiracy thriller "Utopia" received the award for best drama series. The series is about a group of comic-book fans who are pursued by a secretive murderous organization after they discover an unpublished manuscript for the sequel to a cult graphic novel rumored to predict global catastrophes. HBO has ordered an American adaptation to be directed by David Fincher ("Gone Girl").

The other British winner was "Educating Yorkshire," a glimpse into modern school life in a diverse community in northern Britain, for non-scripted entertainment.

Krijgsman was chosen best actress for her role in "De Nieuwe Wereld" (The New World) as a disgruntled cleaner at an airport immigration center who forms an unexpected relationship with a West African asylum-seeker.

Telemundo's "El Senor de los Cielos" (The Lord of the

Skies), loosely based on the life of a powerful Mexican drug lord who died after undergoing plastic surgery to change his appearance, won the Emmy in the newly created category for non-English language U.S. primetime programs.

The telenovela award went to Brazil's "Precious Pearl," the story of a girl who may be the reincarnation of a Buddhist spiritual leader.

Germany's controversial "Unsere Mutter, Unsere Vater" (Generation War), about five friends from a Berlin neighborhood whose paths diverge amid the horrors of World War II, won in the TV movie/mini-series category.

Belgium's irreverent "What If? 2" took the Emmy in the comedy category for its sketches on such topics as "What if Jesus was a standup comedian?"

In the documentary category, Sweden's "Frihet bakom galler" (No Burqas Behind Bars), about inmates in an Afghan women's prison, took the Emmy.

Aretha blasts author of unauthorized bio

NEW YORK (AP)—The Queen of Soul says don't waste your money—or soul—on the recently released unauthorized biography about her.



In a statement, Aretha Franklin called David Ritz's "Respect: The Life of Aretha Franklin," a "trashy book."

The two have a history of collaborating: Franklin and award-winning Ritz worked together on her 1999 biography, "Aretha: From These Roots." He also won a Grammy Award for best album notes for his work on Franklin's 1992 box set, "Queen of Soul: The Atlantic Recordings."

"As many of you are aware, there is a very trashy book out there full of lies and more lies about me. ... (The writer's) actions are obviously vindictive because I edited out some crazy statements he had the gall to try and put in my book written 15 years ago," the statement read. "Evidently, he has been carrying this hatred ever since."

In "Respect," Ritz writes

about Franklin as teenage parent, her own parents' separation, her battle with alcohol and more.

"The sensitive questions—Aretha's mother leaving family, Aretha having two babies while still in her teens, Aretha being beaten by her first husband ... were off-limits," Ritz writes in his new book about working with Franklin for their 1999 effort. "In my view, my two years of working on 'From These Roots' resulted in my failure to actualize the great potential in Aretha's narration. I didn't do what I set out to do."

Ritz has written a number of biographies, ranging from Etta James to Rick James to Ray Charles. He has won the Ralph Gleason Music Book Award four times, and last year he received the ASCAP Timothy White Award for outstanding musical biography for the Buddy Guy book, "When I Left Home." He has also authored many novels, essays and articles.

"I think the book in the deep-

est way is an appreciation. And when I say appreciation, it's just not an appreciation of her art; it's an appreciation of the challenges of her life and the appreciation how hard it is to kind of navigate your way through the complexities of show business culture," Ritz told The Associated Press by phone Monday.

He writes that Franklin brought up the idea of collaborating on a follow-up to "From These Roots," but their ideas for the project were different.

"When I renewed my research for this book, I did so without Aretha's blessing, but I did have the support of three Aretha's closest relatives," Ritz writes.

Franklin's latest album, "Aretha Franklin Sings the Great Diva Classics," was released a week before Ritz's book last month. The album debuted at No. 3 on Billboard's R&B/Hip-Hop albums chart.

"I call the book 'Respect' because I think it's a respectful book," Ritz told AP. "I tried to be understanding and compassionate and that was my goal. ... I love her and I love her art, and I tried to honor her story."

Bill Weir's new CNN series to begin in 2015

NEW YORK (AP)—Bill Weir's new series on CNN will entail a lot of travel.

CNN said Monday the former ABC newsman will host "The Wonder List" starting next year. The series will be

about people, places and cultures at a crossroad.

The last person to see a Bengal tiger in the wild or hike a glacier in Montana may actually be alive today, given the rate of planetary change. Weir

said the series will examine the reasons for that and also take viewers to places like the Dead Sea; Venice, Italy; and Africa.

CNN said "The Wonder List" will debut with eight episodes in prime time early in the year.

Kerouac letter discovery shows poet didn't toss it

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When a letter credited with inspiring Jack Kerouac to create a new literary genre suddenly surfaced, no one was happier than an 86-year-old poet and playwright from New Jersey.

For more than 50 years, Gerd Stern had been wrongly accused of tossing what Kerouac called “the greatest piece of writing I ever saw” over the side of a houseboat.

“Yes, I’m the guy who dropped the letter off the boat, but of course I didn’t,” Stern, laughing heartily, said after The Associated Press reported Sunday that the 16,000-word screed

to Kerouac from his friend and literary muse Neal Cassady was found intact last week in a house in the San Francisco Bay Area.

“At least 12 literary publications through the years have accused me,” Stern said. “People have written to me and damned me for this. After 50 years, it’s a blessing to be vindicated.”

Cassady, who wrote the letter over three amphetamine-fueled days in 1950, sent it to Kerouac just before Christmas.

After he read it, Kerouac would say later, he scrapped an early draft of “On The Road” and rewrote it in a similar stream-of-consciousness style.

The result was a literary classic and a new style of prose called Beat literature.

If Stern hadn’t dropped the letter off that boat, Kerouac told The Paris Review in 1968, the writing would have transformed his car-stealing, marijuana-dealing, con-man friend Cassady into a literary giant.

Stern said Monday that Beat poet and Kerouac friend Allen Ginsberg sent him the letter sometime in the 1950s, hoping he could get it published by Ace Books, for which Stern was a literary agent.

“It was part of a stash of about two and a half feet of books and



This Aug. 30, 2014 photo by Beat Museum founder and curator Jerry Cimino of a mural from a 1952 photograph adorning the exterior of the museum in San Francisco, shows Beat Generation writer Jack Kerouac, right, and his friend and fellow Beat author Neal Cassady

manuscripts that Allen had collected from all of his buddies,” he said, adding he sent them all back but one—William S. Burroughs’ novel “Junky,” which was published.

“Soon thereafter Allen started that rumor,” he said about the account that he had thrown the letter overboard.

What really happened? Ginsberg sent the letter to Richard Emerson at Golden Goose Press and he didn’t bother to read it.

When Emerson folded Golden Goose, he gave his archives, including the still-unopened letter, to a business associate who took the material home.

There it stayed until Los An-

geles performance artist Jean Spinosa was cleaning out her late father’s house two years ago. The auction house Profiles in History is putting the archive up for sale on Dec. 17.

Profiles in History released a snippet of the letter to The Associated Press on Monday that hints at Cassady’s abilities as a wordsmith.

“I am fettered by cobwebs, countless fine creases indelibly etched on the brain,” he tells Kerouac in a paragraph that includes strikeouts and penciled corrections of a couple misspelled words.

“There are no unexplored paths in my mind and few that

are not entangled in the weave of my misery mists. It is but gentle fog thru which I navigate and make friendly by constant intimate communion.”

Only one question remains: Why did Ginsberg say Stern tossed the letter?

“At the best he forgot that I gave it to him,” Stern said. “At the worst he said it just to stick it to me.

“But it doesn’t matter now,” he added with a chuckle. “Allen’s dead. Jack’s dead. Neal’s dead. But I’m still alive.”

2 more postponements further trim Cosby tour



Cosby

NEW YORK (AP)—A pair of concert dates for Bill Cosby in Connecticut and Washington State has been added to the list of cancellations and postponements.

The Capitol Theatre in Yakima, Washington, said Monday it has indefinitely postponed Cosby’s appearance that was scheduled for Nov. 29, while Foxwoods Resort Casino in Connecticut said it is postponing his Jan. 31 appearance.

No reason was given by either venue for the postponements.

The announcements add to a number of cancellations last week for the embattled comedian amid a growing number of sexual assault allegations.

Cosby has issued a statement discrediting decades-old accusations, and his attorney has denied four of the allegations.

At least 28 dates remain on Cosby’s touring calendar through May 2015.

‘Wizard of Oz’ Cowardly Lion costume fetches \$3M

NEW YORK (AP)—Bert Lahr’s Cowardly Lion costume from the classic film “The Wizard of Oz” has sold for more than \$3 million at an auction in New York City.

The big cat outfit had been authenticated as the one Lahr wore

in the 1939 film. Its face is a sculpted likeness of the late actor.

It sold at an auction of Hollywood items at Bonhams on Monday.

A spokesman for costume owner James Comisar says a secondary costume used in the

film was sold at auction in recent years for close to \$1 million.

Comisar has a trove of TV memorabilia from shows including “I Love Lucy” and “Lost.” He has said he plans to use money from the Cowardly Lion costume sale to exhibit his collection.



This Nov. 21, 2014 photo shows Bert Lahr’s Cowardly Lion costume and a three-sheet poster from “The Wizard of Oz,” part of the “There’s No Place Like Hollywood” movie memorabilia auction at Bonhams auction house in New York.

Clandestine family affair needs complete confession

DEAR ABBY: I recently found out my daughter has been having an affair with her sister’s husband. This will tear our family apart. It will also have a huge impact on my grandchildren.

I have not yet told my wife, who will be devastated, but I’m having trouble carrying this burden alone. I feel they should be held accountable. Should I look the other way, or make them responsible for their actions, knowing the hell it will create?

STRESSING IN THE USA

DEAR STRESSING: What an unfortunate mess. Please do not assume that you are responsible for any damage that may result from this affair. Because you know about it, it’s logical to assume that it’s only a matter of time until others find out what has been going on.

That’s why you should talk to your daughter. Tell her you know about the affair and will now have to inform her sister, who deserves to know that her marriage is in serious trouble and why. If you do, it may save the marriage.

DEAR ABBY: In the past few months I have gone to different parties for friends from my church group. I always go to the celebrations eager to meet and chat with people I haven’t seen in years.

However, one thing bothers me about these get-togethers. Toward the middle of the event, I often get approached by the host who will ask me to assist with a certain task such as setting up the table, clearing or even doing the dishes. No one else is ever asked to help.

I was raised in a family that emphasized good manners and to always be willing to help a friend. But in these situations I feel uncomfortable because I don’t want to refuse my host and I was invited as a “guest.”

Isn’t it rude for a host to ask a guest to help clean? If so, what would be the appropriate response?

INFRINGED UPON IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR INFRINGED UPON: Whether it’s presumptuous to ask depends upon how close the host is to the guest being asked to lend a hand. Some people would consider it a compliment; however, if you’re not close, it IS presumptuous. And if you prefer not to be recruited, all you have to say is, “I’d rather not.”

DEAR READERS: Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, and no Thanksgiving would be complete without my sharing the traditional prayer penned by my dear mother:

Oh, Heavenly Father,

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



We thank Thee for food and remember the hungry.
We thank Thee for health and remember the sick.
We thank Thee for friends and remember the friendless.
We thank Thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.
May these remembrances stir us to service,
That Thy gifts to us may be used for others.
Amen.
Have a safe and happy celebration, everyone!

Love, ABBY

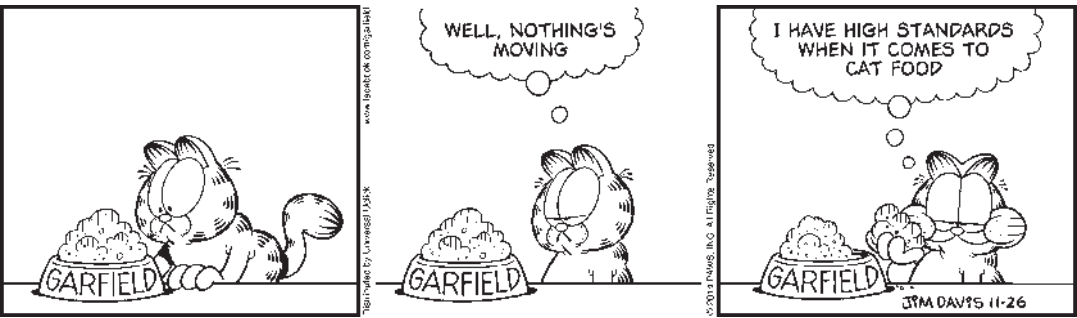
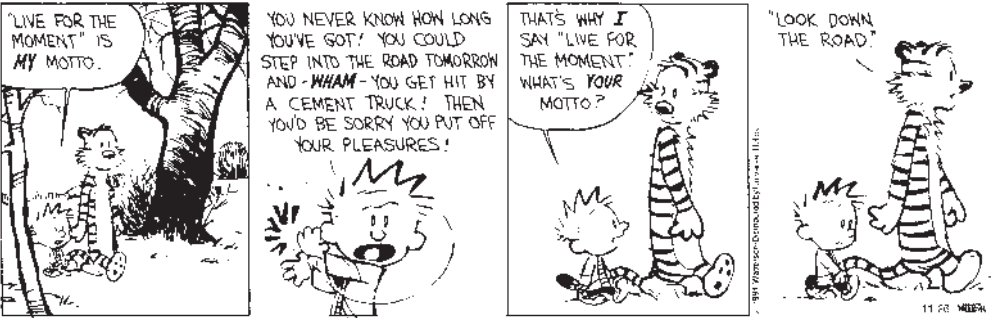
For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

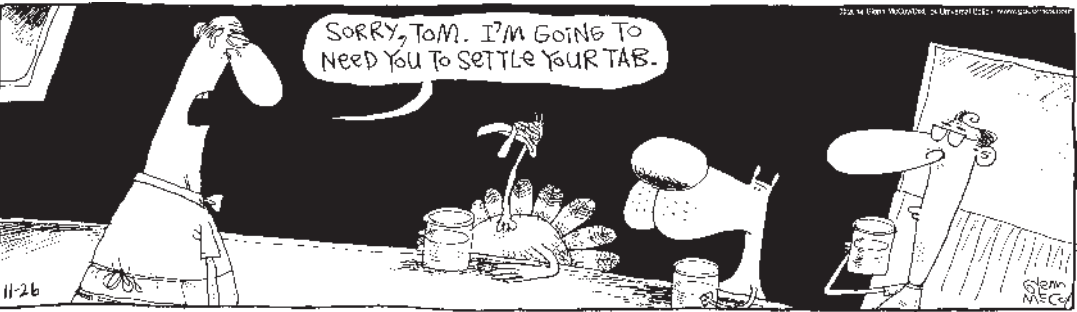
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tater
5 Unruly group
8 Couch
12 Stereo
13 Motorists' org.
14 Ball of yarn
15 Stars and Stripes
17 Concept
18 Thick and sticky
19 How a snail moves
21 Saab
24 Violinist
25 Smell
28 Erstwhile
30 Compete
33 Have a bug
34 Exodus
35 Blunder
36 Nourished
37 Valhalla

DOWN

31 Anger
32 Historic
33 Speck
34 Storefront
35 Canopy
36 Strange
37 Consume
38 Exile
39 Stentorian
40 Nincompoop
41 FBI
42 Operative
43 Good
44 Example
45 Equine
46 Gait
47 20-Down's brother, e.g.
48 Decorate

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peter Facinelli, 41; Garcelle Beauvais, 48; Tina Turner, 75; Rich Little, 76.

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on raising your income or making your investments grow. Creative accounting, cutting costs and picking up skills that will make you more employable are all things that you should consider. Past experience will play a big role this year, so don't forget where you've been, what you've done and the results you achieved. Your numbers are 9, 11, 19, 23, 28, 31, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Learn how to use your money wisely and save for the future. Consider investing in your skills, knowledge and prospects in order to raise your income. Don't let anyone talk you into taking financial risks or spending unnecessarily. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make adjustments that will help you end this year on a high note. Start the process now so that you will be well on your way the first quarter of next year. Your career or investment choices must be established and initiated. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Re-evaluate relationships you are involved in and discuss plans with those you enjoy spending time with the most. It's time to make wise choices that deter you from getting poor results. Head in a direction that promises an upbeat lifestyle. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Share your intentions with others and you'll find out where you stand. The more open you are,

the easier it will be to stabilize your current situation at home and at work. Your intuition won't let you down. Follow your heart. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you hesitate, you will miss out. Be prepared to make your move and enjoy what life has to offer. Don't let anyone tamper with your plans or your emotional outlook. Do what's best for you. Love is highlighted. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be forced to juggle your time and your money. Lay out a plan and schedule you can work with, and don't deviate because of someone's inability to make a decision. Protect your home and your assets. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll accomplish more if you get your errands out of the way or visit someone who can lift your spirits. Problems at home will escalate if you stick around and argue. Research new groups you would like to join. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take charge and get things done. Your experience will allow you to show off your smarts and your talents. An interesting change at home will give you the ability to expand a creative hobby you enjoy. Don't let anyone ruin your plans. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It will be difficult to balance work and home responsibilities. Long hours may be necessary if you want to take time off during the holidays. You won't disappoint loved ones if you make them aware of what you are up against. ***

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY
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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider how you are going to distribute your time and your money. Whether it's a donation you want to make or managing your gift-giving this festive season, try to have a plan that will help you stay on track. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Opportunities are plentiful. Look at your choices and don't share your decision until you have a comprehensive plan. A change in the way you look will enhance your appeal and your love life. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Follow through with your plans. Someone will complain if you are all talk and no action. What you do for others will not go unnoticed, but your contributions must not exceed your budget. A romantic problem will be based on disillusionment. ****

Birthday Baby: You are competitive, intense and tenacious. You are a born leader.

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SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	7	6	5	2	8	9	4	3
2	3	8	4	7	9	6	5	1
5	9	4	3	6	1	8	2	7
3	8	9	2	5	7	1	6	4
4	2	7	1	3	6	5	8	9
6	1	5	8	9	4	7	3	2
9	5	2	6	1	3	4	7	8
7	4	3	9	8	5	2	1	6
8	6	1	7	4	2	3	9	5

Difficulty Level ★★

11/26

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MAKE IT WITH APPLES Solution: 8 letters

DRESSINGCDALASG
DEFIAJCHUTNEYDR
DEZHPNUSTEWRIAI
EKNICGGIROUPSEL
ZAINLNNRCPALTRL
AMAJAEUIIELSTBE
LYDNACMPKANTTTD
GNIDDUPABOSIIAC
HSERFUCNREOUWLH
CYRFRERCKARCPFE
REIESOHAFCSEFE
INEECACKASLICES
SDEPRPJELLYBTDE
PHODUDESSERTIIR
CPSCASSEROLENCS

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Yesterday's Answer: Handlebars
Purchase Treasury 15 & Treasury 16 in time for the holidays! Order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call toll-free 1-800-642-8480. (Each contains 130 puzzles.)

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Red Sox spend on Sandoval, Ramirez to shake cellar

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Red Sox are hoping to spend their way out of the AL



East cellar with two big free agent signings.

The first team in major league history to go from worst to first and back again has agreed to terms with third baseman Pablo Sandoval, his agent confirmed Monday night. According to a baseball official with knowledge of the deal, Boston also agreed to a deal with Hanley Ramirez, who came up to the major leagues with the Red Sox.

The official confirmed both agreements on the condition of anonymity because the players hadn't passed physicals. The Ramirez deal was expected to be finalized Tuesday.

The moves give the Red Sox a potent batting order that includes two of the last three World Series MVPs, Sandoval and David Ortiz. But they still have to replace the four starting pitchers they traded last summer.

Sandoval, 28, is a career .294 hitter who had 16 homers and 73 RBIs in the regular season this year and then hit .366 in the postseason while helping the Giants win their third World Series in five years. With his everyman body type and colorful nickname—Kung Fu Panda—the switch hitter was a fan favorite in the Bay Area.

"He has been with us through some of the greatest moments in San Francisco Giants history—including all three World Series championships," the Giants said in a statement. "We will never forget his World Series MVP performance in 2012 and his numerous contributions to the 2014 championship. His connection with Giants fans—young and old—is truly special, and he will be greatly missed. We wish him nothing but the best in Boston."

Ramirez came up in the Red Sox system and was still a prospect when he was traded to the Florida Marlins in the deal that brought Josh Beckett and future



The Boston Red Sox have agreed to terms with third baseman Pablo Sandoval, his agent confirmed Monday night.

S I D E B A R

Johnson, Martinez, Smoltz on Hall of Fame ballot

NEW YORK (AP)—Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez and John Smoltz are among 17 newcomers on baseball's 2015 Hall of Fame ballot.

Craig Biggio, who fell two votes short of the 75 percent needed in the 2014 balloting, tops 17 holdovers on the Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot announced Monday. That group includes Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Sammy Sosa, Mark McGwire, Mike Piazza, Jeff Bagwell and Tim Lincecum.

Johnson went 303-166 and won five Cy Young Awards. The Big Unit struck out 4,875 batters, second only to Nolan

Ryan's 5,714.

Martinez, a three-time Cy Young winner, was 219-100 and struck out 3,154. He led the major leagues in ERA five times.

Smoltz is vying to join former Atlanta teammates Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine, who were inducted this year along with Chicago White Sox slugger Frank Thomas. Smoltz had a 213-155 record and 154 saves, the only pitcher with 200 wins and 150 saves. He was 15-4 in the postseason.

Carlos Delgado, Nomar Garciaparra, Gary Sheffield and players' association head Tony Clark also are among the first-time eligibles.

World Series MVP Mike Lowell to Boston. The 30-year-old shortstop batted .300 with 13 homers and 71 RBIs for Los Angeles this year.

Boston already seems set at shortstop with 22-year-old Xander Bogaerts, and with Sandoval at third they are expected to move Ramirez to left

field. He has never played outfield in the majors.

The moves give the Red Sox a surplus of outfielders, with Ramirez potentially joining

from 38 percent to 35 percent in his second ballot appearance. Bonds, a seven-time MVP and baseball's career home run leader, fell from 36 percent to 35. Sosa, who hit 609 homers, dropped from 13 percent to 7 and is close to falling below the 5 percent threshold for remaining on the ballot.

Voters are the approximately 600 writers who have been members of the BBWAA for 10 consecutive years at any point. Ballots must be postmarked by Dec. 27. Results will be announced Jan. 6.

Players elected, along with choices announced Dec. 8 by the golden era committee (1947-72), will be inducted July 26 at Cooperstown.

McGwire, entering his next-to-last year of eligibility, received 11 percent last year, down from a peak of 25.6 in 2008.

Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner, dropped

Yoenis Cespedes, Rusney Castillo, Shane Victorino, Jackie Bradley Jr. Allen Craig, Mookie Betts and Daniel Nava. They are expected to shop some of

the extras for pitching, which they have been lacking since dealing Jon Lester, John Lackey, Jake Peavy and Felix Doubront near the July 31 deadline for trades without waivers.

Boston will not forfeit the No. 7 overall pick in June's amateur draft but will give up the second and third selections.

"To the greatest fans in San Francisco! Leaving the (hashtag)SFGiants & this city I love is the most difficult decision I have ever made," Sandoval posted on Twitter and Instagram. "I have grown up w/you, laughed & cried w/you & you have blessed me (with) your support, friendship & love. It has been an unforgettable (at)SFGiants career, a great run & 3 World Series championships in 5 yrs w/great teammates, coaches, front office & fans. I will always remember you w love & my heart will always be in (hashtag)SF."

Sandoval, the 2012 World Series MVP, had pondered an offer from the Giants worth about \$95 million over five years, assistant general manager Bobby Evans said. San Francisco might have taken it up closer to \$100 million. That's comparable to what Sandoval is expected to receive from the Red Sox.

The slugger is expected to be formally introduced Tuesday in Boston.

What's next for Evans and Giants general manager Brian Sabean is unclear, given there's hardly a panda-sized pool of available third basemen.

The Giants are likely to show interest in free-agent third baseman Chase Headley. They also are expected to enter the race for Cuban outfielder Yasmany Tomas.

Sabeen said when the season ended that Sandoval was the No. 1 priority before anything else got done to build the 2015 roster.

Losing Sandoval stings, and will for a while—even if he was ready for a change and new challenge after seven major league seasons with the Giants.

Bills rout Jets in rescheduled game



DETROIT (AP)—Scott Chandler capped an emotionally draining week with a celebration for the folks back home in Buffalo.

After catching a touchdown pass shortly before halftime, he began mimicking a shoveling motion, a nod to Bills fans who have spent the last few days digging out of several feet of snow.

"It was a little bit of a tribute to the people of Buffalo," Chandler said. "You want to do something special for our fans. They did a great job showing up for us tonight, and for the people back there, we're behind you."

After a week of frighten-

ing weather and an abbreviated practice schedule, Buffalo played one of its best games of the season in a 38-3 victory over the New York Jets on Monday night. Kyle Orton threw two touchdown passes, and the Bills also had a key play on special teams in the runaway win.

Heavy snow in the Buffalo area moved the game to Detroit, but there were plenty of Bills fans in attendance at Ford Field. Buffalo (6-5) couldn't even practice before arriving in Michigan on Friday, but it was the Jets (2-9) who looked out of sorts all night.

"We probably had the easy part of it, and back home they had the tough part," Orton said.

"Excited to get here and get a big win for us, and hopefully this will propel us forward."

Orton threw a 7-yard touchdown pass to Robert Woods in the first quarter, and the second-year receiver's one-handed catch set up another touchdown in the second. Chandler caught a 19-yard scoring pass from Orton to make it 14-3 late in the half.

Chandler needed a snowmobile to get out of his neighborhood before the team traveled to the Detroit area, and the Bills faced logistical issues for several days. Tickets to the game were given out for free, and although Ford Field wasn't quite full, the crowd of

56,044 created a decent atmosphere in prime time.

"Our fans are phenomenal," Buffalo coach Doug Marrone said. "When I first came out there, you don't know what to expect. ... Obviously, you get concerned whether it is going to be a home field or things like that, or be ready for a silent count. Then all of a sudden when I came out and looked to the right, and I saw all of those blue jerseys, I was like, 'Holy cow, baby. Here we go. We've got the crowd.'"

Ravens 34, Saints 27

In New Orleans, Justin Forsett ripped off one long run after another, and the Baltimore Ravens battered Drew Brees into a very costly mistake.

Forsett rushed for 182 yards and two touchdowns, and Baltimore beat New Orleans 34-27 on Monday night to hand the Saints their third consecutive loss.

Will Hill had a 44-yard interception return for a go-ahead score for Baltimore in the third quarter. Steve Smith caught four passes for 89 yards, including a 15-yard touchdown catch for the Ravens (7-4), who improved to 4-0 against the NFC South and remained within a half-game of AFC North leader Cincinnati (7-3-1).

Forsett's scoring runs went for 13 yards in the second quarter and 20 yards late in the fourth quarter to seal it.

"The offensive line did a great job of making those lanes

open for me," Forsett said. "I just tried to seize the moment."

Brees passed for 420 yards and three touchdowns for New Orleans (4-7), which remained tied for first in its anemic division with Atlanta, which lost to Cleveland a day earlier. Now New Orleans and Atlanta have the dubious distinction of being the first teams in NFL history to occupy first place in a division while three games under .500.

"We've got to make sure we've got enough thick skin and be able to have the mental and physical toughness to bounce back and get ready to play next week, because we're playing obviously an important game," said Saints coach Sean Payton, whose club visits Pittsburgh on Sunday.

LeBron scores 29 as Cavaliers end skid



CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James scored 29 points, including 16 in the first quarter, and the Cleveland Cavaliers broke a four-game losing streak with a 106-74 win over the Orlando Magic on Monday night.

After bluntly assessing his own play at Monday's shoot-around, saying, "I stink," James took control early and sparked his team to a much-needed comfortable win.

After averaging 18.5 points and shooting 41 percent from the field in the losing streak, James was 9 for 17 from the field Monday and tied a season-high with 11 assists while not playing the fourth quarter.

James hit four shots from the field, including a 3-pointer, made all seven of his free throws and had four assists in the opening period. He finished the first half with 22 points, including a fadeaway jumper from the top of the key to end the second quarter.

Anderson Varejao scored 14 points while Kevin Love and Kyrie Irving each added 12.

Victor Oladipo led the Magic with 22 points while Nikola Vucevic added 18 points and 13 rebounds.

The Cavaliers have won eight consecutive games against Orlando. The 74 points were the fewest the Magic have scored and a season-low allowed by the Cavaliers.

James called the Cavaliers "fragile" following Saturday's loss to Toronto, in which they led by 18 points in the first quarter and lost 110-93. Coach David Blatt agreed with James' point of view when asked about it before Monday's game.

After a day off to think about their issues, the Cavaliers came out firing. Cleveland went ahead for good four minutes into the game, built a 21-point lead in the second quarter and led 56-38 at halftime.

Orlando cut the lead to 12 early in the third, but Varejao hit four mid-range jumpers and a hook shot, and James found Shawn Marion with a baseball pass for a dunk to help Cleveland re-establish control.

James hauled in a long pass from Love and hammered down a dunk to bring the crowd to its feet and move the lead to 72-48.

The Magic, who had won two straight road games, played without forward Tobias Harris, their second-leading scorer and rebounder. He missed his second straight game with a strained right calf.

Clippers 113, Hornets 92

In Charlotte, Chris Paul said he spoke with Blake Griffin recently about getting back to what the Los Angeles Clippers do best.

For the team's two superstars, that means working the pick and roll.

"This is our fourth year together and obviously your game changes and evolves and stuff like that, but we both realize our bread and butter used to be when I would attack downhill and he was rolling to the basket," Paul said. "So we are trying to mix that in more."

Griffin had 22 points and a season-high 16 rebounds, Paul had 22 points and a season-high 15 assists as the Clippers handed the Charlotte Hornets their sixth straight loss 113-92 on Monday night.

Griffin finished one assist shy of a triple-double and Paul moved past Jerry West into 25th place all-time in NBA annals in assists.

"I thought Blake and Chris set the tone for us on both ends and I thought that was the difference," said Clippers coach Doc Rivers.

The Clippers (8-5) outscored the Hornets by 39 points from beyond the 3-point arc.

Jamal Crawford had 21 points and J.J. Redick added 17, combining to shoot 9 of 17 from 3-point range. As a team the Clippers were 15 of 32 on 3-point attempts; the Hornets were just 2 of 20.

"When you see J.J. and those guys getting open 3s like that it's not because I did anything special, it's because our bigs did a great job rolling," Paul said.

Cody Zeller led the way for Charlotte with a career-high 17 points, in which they led by 18 points in the first quarter and lost 110-93. Coach David Blatt agreed with James' point of view when asked about it before Monday's game.

Lance Stephenson, Charlotte's big free agent acquisition, was a non-factor with three points and six assists. He did not play in the fourth quarter even after Gary Neal left the game with a shoulder injury. Coach Steve Clifford said Stephenson's lack of ball movement is one of the reasons he took him out of the game.

Paul and Walker played a game within a game, each trying to get the better of each other on various possessions.

Paul had six assists in the opening quarter and showed off his skills in the low post by posting up Walker and scoring on a pair of turnaround jump shots over the fellow point guard.

That seemed to ignite Walker, who responded with a nifty crossover move that left Paul stumbling to regain his balance as he drained a step-back jumper from 17 feet. Paul didn't seem to take kindly to being shown up, knocking down an 18-footer on the ensuing possession.

Clifford said the Hornets



AP
Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) drives to the basket against Orlando Magic's Channing Frye (8) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, Nov. 24, 2014, in Cleveland.

helped Philadelphia with 12 first-half turnovers, but they committed just five in the second half.

Raptors 104, Suns 100

In Toronto, Jonas Valanciunas had a career-high 27 points and 11 rebounds, and DeMar DeRozan scored 23 as Toronto won their fifth straight game, beating Phoenix Suns 104-100.

Lou Williams scored 17, Kyle Lowry had 14 and Terrence Ross added 13 for the Raptors, who improved 9-1 at home and 4-0 against Western Conference opponents.

Eric Bledsoe scored 25 points and Markieff Morris had 17 for the Suns, whose four-game winning streak was snapped. Phoenix had not lost since the opening game of their six-game road trip, Nov. 15 against the Clippers.

Isaiah Thomas scored 12 of his 16 in the fourth quarter and Gerald Green had 13 for Phoenix, but made a costly turnover in the final seconds.

Toronto's Chuck Hayes scored the opening basket of the fourth quarter to give the Raptors a 17-point lead, 83-66. Suns coach Jeff Hornacek called timeout, and his team responded with a 14-0 run over the next two minutes, including three straight 3-pointers by Thomas.

Rockets 91, Knicks 86

In Houston, James Harden had 36 points to lead the depleted Houston to a victory over slumping New York Knicks.

Houston (11-3) played without center Dwight Howard (knee) and point guard Patrick Beverley (hamstring), but Harden had half of the Rockets' 14 3-pointers to overwhelm the Knicks, who played the second half without star forward Carmelo Anthony.

Anthony left the game with less than two minutes remaining in the first half and did not return, suffering from back spasms, the team said. Anthony had 14 points.

Jose Calderon and Travis Wear both had 9 points for the Knicks (4-11), who fell to 1-6 on the road and suffered their 10th loss in the last 12 games. Despite leaving so early in the game, Anthony led Knicks scorers, and none of his teammates scored double figures.

Six other players scored at least 8 points, including five bench players. The Knicks made only two field goals in the final five minutes of the game.

need to keep plugging despite the losing streak.

"We can't lose our spirit," Clifford said. "To be a good team in this league it takes a lot of things but your best players have to be prideful and hard players. Al and Kemba tonight showed again they're going to fight for this and they're going to try hard to get this turned around."

Trail Blazers 114, 76ers 104

In Philadelphia, LaMarcus Aldridge had 15 of his 33 points during the pivotal third quarter to help the Portland Trail Blazers defeat Philadelphia 114-104 on Monday night, sending the 76ers to their 14th straight loss to open the season.

Wesley Matthews added 17 points, Damian Lillard had 16 and Robin Lopez chipped in 12 for Portland (11-3), which won its eighth in a row.

Michael Carter-Williams led Philadelphia (0-14) with 24

points.

The 76ers moved within one loss of matching the franchise mark for consecutive losses to begin a season and will look to avoid an 0-15 opening when they host Brooklyn on Wednesday. They also are just four losses from tying the 2009-10 Nets, who set an NBA record by beginning the season 0-18. If the losing continues, Philadelphia could break the NBA record for losses to start the season on Dec. 5 when hosting Oklahoma City.

After taking a halftime lead for just the fifth time this season, Philadelphia upped its two-point advantage to its biggest of the game when consecutive layups by Carter-Williams and Henry Sims made it 56-50 early in the third quarter. And Philadelphia's lead again was six, 58-52, on Carter-Williams' two free throws with 10:33 remaining in the period.

But it was all Portland from that point. The Blazers went in

front on Aldridge's drive that made it 63-62 with 8:10 left in the period and then continued to pour it on. Nicolas Batum's dunk with 4:02 remaining in the third gave Portland its largest lead to that point, 80-68, and capped a 6:31 stretch in which the Trail Blazers outscored Philadelphia 28-10.

Aldridge had three straight baskets during the run, including an alley-oop dunk on Steve Blake's pass. Aldridge was 5-for-5 from the field in the period to help Portland enter the fourth with an 89-80 lead. Aldridge ended 13-for-20 from the field.

Sims finished with 22 points and Tony Wroten added 20 for the 76ers, who went 0 for 8 from 3-point range.

A pair of Carter-Williams free throws with 6.6 seconds left before intermission gave Philadelphia a 52-50 halftime lead. Wroten led Philadelphia with 10 points at the break.

The Trail Blazers also

10 to battle for girls U12 tiara in tennis tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Ten players will contest the girls U12 singles championship in the 6th Tan Holdings

Tennis Classic, which will kick off this Friday at the various tennis courts on the island.

Leading the list are siblings Conatsu and Coume Kaga, who are seeded first and second in the 16-player draw. Conatsu, who incidentally beat her younger sister in last year's third place game, is at the top half of the draw and got a bye in the first round. The older Kaga will then play her first match in the tournament against the winner of the Hye Jin Elliot-Erika Tuttle game. Elliot and Tuttle will collide this Friday at 9:30am on Court 1 of the Kanoa Resort with the victor challenging Conatsu in a 4pm tiff at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan Court 1.

The other pairing at the top half of the draw will have Susan Sablan meeting Maria Gregoire at 8am at Fiesta Court 2. Both players got byes in the first round.

In the lower half of the bracket, Ellie Epley and last year's U10 finalist Riko Ojima also gained byes in the first round and they will duel in the quarterfinals this Friday at 9:30am at Fiesta Court 2.

The other lower bracket game set for this Friday will have Tiara Imai dueling Erie Ortega at 9:30am at Fiesta Court 2 with the winner squaring off against the second-ranked Coume Kaga.

Meanwhile, four players in the girls U12 singles will also



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Maria Gregoire makes a backhand return to Ellie Epley during their game in a local tournament last year at the AMP tennis courts. Both Gregoire and Epley are entered in the girls U12 singles division of the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

compete in the girls U12 doubles, which has only three pairs.

Epley is teaming up with Gregoire, while Tuttle has Imai as

Quintin Ramsey, William Fong, Chris Park, brothers Allen and Chris Cepeda, Daniel Lim, Chan Woo Jeong were the other members of SIS' threepeat winning squad.

The varsity teams of MHS, Tinian High School, Marianas Baptist Academy, Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High School, and MHS junior varsity complete the field in the boys volleyball.

the net in the 15th minute.

Tan Holdings went on to duplicate its first-half output in the second, with Rojas getting his third straight goal (8:55) and adding one more five minutes before the match ended. John Guiller Canape and De Ramos also scored in the second half, which Tan Holdings capped with Bergancia's goal with just five seconds left on the clock. Earlier in the 24th minute, the Strykers scored its lone goal to avoid a shutout.

After giving up one goal in its second game, Tan Holdings

partner. The other duo is composed of Michelle Ryu and last year's U10 singles champion Hana Ojima. The tandems of Gregoire and Epley and Ryu and Ojima will play first this

SBC

From Page 28

Golden Racquets is in third place with 16 points, followed by Shirley's (13) and CBC (10).

Three points is awarded if a team won a match in two sets, while two points is given to the winning squad and one to

U12 showed no mercy in handing the ASC Trust Islanders a 5-0 spanking in the Sunday morning match.

Austria starred in the win with his hat-trick, highlighted by his first goal just 45 seconds into the first half. It was the fastest goal recorded in the friendly games. Austria's two other goals were made in the 22nd and 50th minute, while Rojas chipped in two, one each in the first (18:30) and second (44:02) half.

For its afternoon game and the final, the visiting squad

Friday at 1pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Court 2.

The two other matches in the round-robin contest are scheduled this Saturday and Sunday at Hyatt Court 1 and Kanoa Court 2, respectively.

The girls U14 doubles will also have a round-robin format with only three teams entered in the division. Tania Tan is teaming up with Julia Ishikawa and they will meet Malika Miyawa-

ki and Grace Choi this Friday at 9:30am at Hyatt Court 1. At Kanoa Court A this Saturday at 7pm, Miyawaki and Choi will have their second and final game against Ami Tsukagoshi and Mimi Sakano. For the last game in the draw, Tsukagoshi and Sakano will battle Tan and Ishikawa at Fiesta Court 1 this Sunday at 4pm.

In the girls U14 singles, Tan leads the eight-player field and

she will duel Coume Kaga in her first match this Friday at 4pm at Fiesta Court 1. Other pairings are Choi vs Sakano; Miyawaki vs Asia Raulerson; and Conatu Kaga vs Tsukagoshi. Tsukagoshi is seeded second in the division, which Julia Ishikawa won last year after beating Tan in the finals, 6-2, 6-1.

Pairings and schedules in the boys singles and doubles events will be reported later this week.

2 more crowned division champs



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Smoke Pub D'Mekaniks, seen here posing for a group photo, sealed its title win in the Fanihi division after an 11-4 win over the VFW Warriors in the Bud Light Saipan Electronic Darts Association League.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



The Smoke Pub D'Mekaniks and Naked Fish Na'Gupu joined Sand Juvy Vicious Darters as division winners in the Bud Light Saipan Electronic Darts Association League.

D'Mekaniks and Na'Gupu compiled the most number of wins to rule the Fanihi and

its opponent if the match goes three sets.

CBC will next take on Golden Racquets, while Shirley's battles Taga on Nov. 29 and 30, respectively, after Friday's match-ups between CBC and Taga, and SBC and Golden Racquets.

The tournament ends with the finals on Dec. 13 and 14.

Flame Tree divisions, while the Vicious Darters formalized their title win in the Ladies class after their final matches last week.

The Smoke Pub-backed Mekaniks scored an 11-4 decision over the VFW Warriors to finish with a 147-63 record, which is 13 games ahead of former leader Sand Juvy Put3ska's 134-76 slate.

In other results, the Route33 Mixblood Shooters also pulled off an 11-4 win over sister team Bud Kings, cellar dwellers Jokers Chagi Fan had an easy 10-5 triumph over Sand Juvy No Fear, and the Smoke Pub 80 Proofers escaped with an 8-7 win against Put3ska.

Na'Gupu, in the Flame Tree division, amassed a 130-80 card against the 120-90 record of runner-up and sister squad Ridin' Darty, which previously held the top ranking.

Na'Gupu sealed its title victory with a 15-0 crushing of Team Figan, while Ridin' Darty had an 8-7 victory against One Shot. The Barcode Breakers trounced the Jokers Disciples, 9-6, in the other match.

The Vicious Darters ended the Ladies division with a total of 110 wins in 180 matches after a close victory against the Jokers Kitty Kats.

The Kitty Kats (100-80 mark) were hoping to score an upset to overtake the Darters in their final elimination round match, but the former foiled their bid with an 8-7 decision.

The Route33 Avengers nipped the Dartin' Divas, 8-7, in the other Ladies division game.

Meanwhile, the league will have the Bud Light Cup games starting Dec. 1 in the Ladies division, while the Fanihi and Flame Tree matches will start on Dec. 4.

SIS

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coach Mili Saiki, who was assisted by J.R. Gechig and John Nekaifes.

"As the SIS coach, I'm very happy and proud, not only with the Geckos' performance, but the other schools as well. This is, in my opinion, the year we have seen the best volleyball skills so far."

TAN

From Page 28

lenge Strykers and the visiting team won anew in another convincing fashion, 10-1.

Again, Tan Holdings started like a house on fire, building a 5-0 advantage at halftime. Austria kicked off the scoring with his back-to-back goals (1:55 and 3:45), while Roxas also had a brace, drilling the team's last two goals in the first half (20:05 and 21:23). Goto contributed one goal in the first 30 minutes of play, as he found the back of

and she was hurt, but she did not want to go out of the pitch. She continued playing. At the halftime break, I used her as an example to encourage other players to step up. I told them that even though she's hurt, she still wants to play and fight. Everyone should continue fighting until the final buzzer, give their 100% performance, and play as a team," Moran said.

When the game resumed, the Wolverines were the first ones to score again, however Tan Holdings finished strong, notching two more goals to

force a draw and keep the club's undefeated record. Austria scored one of the two goals with the other one courtesy off a Wolverines' error. The lucky break for Tan Holdings started with Rojas making a corner kick and the ball bouncing off the hands of the Wolverines goalie and then hitting the head of their defender before the leather went in.

"Despite facing a 1-3 deficit, our team just did not give up. They were very tired, but they gave their best in the second half," Moran added.

2014 MISO Girls Basketball League Finals

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Marianas High School's Gabrielle Race looks for a teammate to pass the ball to as she is guarded by Mt. Carmel School's Masami Sato during the first quarter of their title game in the MISO caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Marianas High School's Kyla Ito drives to the baseline against Mt. Carmel School's Jan-Nasia Travilla, while teammate Gabrielle Race tries to provide a screen.



Mt. Carmel School's Karleen Reyes goes up for a shot against Marianas High School's Kyla Ito.



Marianas High School's Alexa Vergara, right, tries to keep the ball away from Mt. Carmel School's Tawnie Manibusan.



Mt. Carmel School's Masami Sato is doubled team by Marianas High School's Friendly Joy Pena, left, and Gabrielle Race.



A Mt. Carmel School player wins the fight for the rebound against Marianas High School's Negahr Rastguiy.



Mt. Carmel School's Janika Taimanao, left, and Marianas High School's Kyla Ito battle for the loose ball.



Jennifer Villagomez looks for her teammates as she faces two Marianas High School defenders.



Mt. Carmel School's Tawnie Manibusan, center, dribbles past Marianas High School's Negahr Rastguiy, left, and Mikayla Lopez.



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on Sandoval,
Ramirez to
shake cellar**
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**LeBron
scores 29
as Cavaliers
end skid**
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

3-peat for SIS in MISO v'ball

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan International School survived Grace Christian Academy's gallant stand to rule the 2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Volleyball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

SIS completed its amazing run this season with a third straight MISO boys volleyball crown in tow, foiling GCA's title bids in the same number of years.

The Geckos swept the elimination round and earned the first finals berth after breezing through the double elimination bracket on the final day. They enjoyed a twice-to-beat advantage after going undefeated.

GCA and Mt. Carmel School



Knights, which were relegated to the loser's bracket, duelled for the last finals berth.

The Eagles hacked out a 25-19, 25-21, decision over the

Knights to earn another crack at the Geckos and advance to the finals for the third straight time.

In Game 1 of the title duel, the Eagles played cohesively

and with strong determination to ambush the Geckos, 25-23, 25-19. GCA got its first victory over its long-time rival this season and more important the

Eagles also forced a deciding Game 2.

However, SIS showed poise and championship experience in its final you-or-me showdown

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Saipan International School Geckos celebrate after winning their third straight title in the 2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Volleyball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



against GCA, which buckled under pressure.

The Geckos sealed the title after a hard-fought 25-18, 25-18 decision against the Eagles. Andrew Johnson led the Geckos' attacks, as the senior was relentless in the final game of his MISO career.

Johnson, behind the excellent set plays of Tommy Choi, punctured the GCA defense all game long.

"All games were amazing and the quality of the plays was great. The skills of both SIS and GCA players made the finals worth it by all means," said SIS

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Tan Holdings U12 unbeaten in Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Tan Holdings FC U12 was flawless in the Guam friendly games held over the weekend at the Guam Football Association National Training Center.

The visiting squad, which was composed of Angelo Bergancia, Emalyn Aniana, Floyd Muna, Franz De Ramos, John

Ezikiel and John Guiller Canape, John Michael Rojas, Kyla Mei Tuazon, Luis Claridades, Matt Moran, Kohtarō Goto, Jenny Ann Capayas, and Thaiپی Austria, earned a 3-1-0 win-draw-loss record in its first off-island competition with its three victories recorded in lopsided fashion.

Tan Holdings U12 started its campaign in the two-day event with a 6-0 crushing of Sidekicks. The team, which was

co-coached by Mico Moran and Bogs Tanghal, went up, 4-0, at halftime with all four goals registered in the first 10 minutes of play. Austria opened the club's string of goals, scoring at the 2:30 mark of the first half, while Rojas tallied the second one in the seventh minute. John Guiller also hit the board a minute later, followed by Bergancia at the 9:36 mark.

The 2014 NMIFA Youth Fall League's co-ed U12 champion then continued to dominate Sidekicks in the second half, as Claridades made it 5-0 with his goal in the third minute and change and Austria got his second goal 10 minutes before the 60-minute match wrapped up.

After its win over Sidekicks in the morning match, Tan Holdings U12 returned to the pitch in the afternoon to chal-

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GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
The ASC Trust Islanders' Javian Cruz, center, attempts to steal the ball ahead of Tan Holdings FC's Thaiپی Austria during a friendly U12 division match at the Guam Football Association National Training Center last Sunday.

SBC opens title bid on high note

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Defending champion Saipan Badminton Club jumped to the early lead in the 2014 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament, which opened last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

SBC signified its intention of keeping the crown as it amassed 31 points after the first three days of play in the 8th edition of the annual tournament.

SBC scored a tough 17-13 decision over Shirley's last Friday and Saturday then followed it up with a 14-1 romp of Golden Racquets last Sunday.

The three-time titlist, aiming for a fourth straight crown, had a slow start and even allowed Shirley's to take an 8-7 lead after the first day. SBC then got its

game going in Day 2 as it scored a 10-5 victory over Shirley's. It had an easier time against Golden Racquets last Sunday as it either won by default or only by two sets.

SBC had a bye in the five-team tournament this Thanksgiving weekend and will next

face the Community Badminton Club, composed mostly of youth players, on Dec. 5 and 6.

Meanwhile, Taga Badminton is currently in second place with 20 points after tallying a 15-15 score against Golden Racquets in the first day.

Taga also played CBC in the opening week and is behind, 5-10, entering the final five matches—mixed A, women's A-B, men's c, and women's C and B-C—set this Friday.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Saipan Badminton Club player returns to Shirley's Badminton Club's Joy Yumul and Vilma Reyes, while her teammate looks on during their game in the Traders Insurance team tournament last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.